

# MEAN GREEN

Friends turn into foes  
when eco-friendly and  
eco-unfriendly  
worlds collide

pages 6-7



Tuesday  
DECEMBER 16, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune publication

★ FREE ★

MIKE RICH/  
REDEYE ILLUSTRATION



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THE  
RETURN  
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# 2do

## To save

Visit The Runner's Edge (5243 N. Clark St.) through February to receive 25 to 50 percent off select Keen footwear.

## To shop

Relax while you shop with a free wine tasting and 10 to 50 percent off Objets d'Envoy jewelry from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Maeve (1325 W. Wrightwood Ave.).

## To hunt

Visit [spaweek.org](http://spaweek.org) through Friday and search around the site for words in a secret phrase for a chance to win a white gold diamond wedding band.

## To watch

Go to [niptuckgoldclass.com](http://niptuckgoldclass.com) before Sunday for a chance to win a private screening of a new episode of "nip/tuck" for 10 people, including a three-course meal at Gold Class Cinemas in South Barrington.



» Win a private screening of the new "nip/tuck."

# Aye, aye caption



## MONDAY'S WINNER

**"Hurray! I didn't pee this time!"**

—MATT BARTOSIK

## RANDOM DILEMMA

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from Monday's Random Dilemma, in which we asked if you would rather have shoes thrown at your head or have a steaming hot pizza thrown in your face.



**txtable**

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in Wednesday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to 47383. Good luck!

**94%**

Have shoes thrown at your head

**6%**

Have a steaming hot pizza thrown in your face

**Here's another:** Which would you rather do? Text "pick" and the number of your response to 47383. You'll get the poll results instantly.

(1) Be a multimillionaire for five years and then fall into poverty  
OR (2) Struggle to make ends meet but always have what you need

**25 22**

## TODAY'S FORECAST

Only three more months until the snow stops.



WED.

**25**  
14

At least it's not snow



THU.

**31**  
25

Here we go again



FRI.

**30**  
15

Easy, breezy



SAT.

**23**  
5

Set teeth to chatter

# Look Your Best for the Holidays!

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# Court lights up big tobacco

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON** The Supreme Court on Monday handed a surprising defeat to tobacco companies counting on it to put an end to lawsuits alleging deceptive marketing of "light" cigarettes.

In a 5-4 split won by the court's liberals, it ruled that smokers may use state consumer protection laws to sue cigarette makers for the way they promote "light" and "low tar" brands.

The decision was at odds with recent anti-consumer rulings that limited state regulation of business in favor of federal power.

Altria Group argued on behalf of its Philip Morris USA subsidiary that the lawsuits are barred by the federal cigarette labeling law, which forbids states from regulating any aspect of cigarette advertising that involves smoking and health.

Justice John Paul Stevens, however, said in his majority opinion that the labeling law does not shield the companies from state laws against deceptive practices. The decision forces tobacco companies to defend dozens of suits filed by smokers in Maine, where the case originated, and across the country.

People suing the cigarette makers still must prove that the use of "light" and "lowered tar" actually violate the state anti-fraud laws, but those lawsuits may go forward, Stevens said.

Altria senior vice president and associate general counsel Murray Garnick said the company still could prevail in these fraud lawsuits. "We continue to view these cases as manageable, and the company will assert many of the strong defenses used successfully in the past to defend against this very type of case," Garnick said.

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the dissenters, said the lawsuit should be thrown out because it relies on claims about smokers' health.

The lawsuit argues that the company knew for decades that smokers of light cigarettes compensate for the lower levels of tar and nicotine by taking longer puffs and compensating in other ways.



Shoppers wait for the opening of a Best Buy store on Black Friday this year in Batavia, Ohio. AP

# Spending and breaking

This season's sales, e-blasts put 'shopaholics' in danger zone

## Wall Street Journal

The holiday season is notoriously stressful for people with drinking problems and eating issues. But times have never been tougher for those diagnosed with a controversial disorder called "compulsive buying," or "shopaholism."

On Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and the first official day of the holiday shopping season, 31-year-old confessed shopaholic Nikki Ebben was holed up in her bedroom in Appleton, Wis., while her husband went to Wal-Mart to snag a \$500 flat-screen TV. Ebben, who has maxed out 15 credit cards and racked up more than \$80,000 in debt, says she vowed to stay away from stores. Still, she couldn't resist the temptation of e-commerce, particularly the appeal of 30 percent off and free shipping. While her husband was gone, she spent \$400 at [toysrus.com](#) and [target.com](#), using money from the couple's joint bank account.

"I went crazy," admits Ebben, whose mother stopped speaking to her for a time because

### SHOPPING LIKE IT'S HOT

A group of Stanford University researchers caused a stir in 2006 when they reported in the American Journal of Psychiatry that about 5.8 percent of the U.S. population can be said to have "compulsive buying behavior." The researchers, who conducted a random survey of 2,513 people, were surprised to find that it affects men and women almost equally. Compulsive buyers tend to be younger and earn less than \$50,000 a year.

she owed her parents so much money.

This year, the combination of retailers' aggressive discounting and current economic anxiety "is a disaster" for people who feel a compulsion to shop, says Terrence Shulman, a social worker and founder of the Shulman Center for Compulsive Theft and Spending, in Franklin, Mich.

The bombardment of promotional e-mails and discount coupons from retailers this season is "like giving matches to a pyromaniac,"

says April Benson, a New York psychotherapist who specializes in the disorder.

Benson urges her clients to unsubscribe from retailers' e-mail lists, block TV channels like QVC and avoid "danger zones," such as Wal-Mart on Black Friday. The silver lining of the current economic crisis, she says, is that many compulsive shoppers are seeing their credit lines cut off, and that is forcing them to reckon with their illness. The problem: They often have no money left to pay for therapy, which frequently isn't covered by insurance.

Compulsive buying is not listed in the American Psychiatric Association's catalog of officially recognized psychiatric disorders but is under consideration for inclusion in the next edition, to be released in 2011.

Ebben says she's embarrassed by her experience, but she agreed to be interviewed in hopes that she could raise awareness of the problem. "This disease has such a profound effect and complicates the lives of so many people," she says.

"I went crazy."

—Nikki Ebben on her Black Friday shopping online

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**SCS PROFILE**

NAME	Nicole Lopez
STATUS	Current Student
STUDY CONCENTRATION	Premedicine
INSIGHT	I'm moving toward what I really want to be. It's given me a whole new level of confidence.

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Do you have a tale of good or bad bus service? What do you think of adding audio to the cameras onboard buses? Tell us by sending an e-mail to [goingpublic@tribune.com](mailto:goingpublic@tribune.com). Don't forget to include your full name, age and neighborhood, as we may print your comment in "Hey, CTA!" on Wednesday.

## These drivers lose badges of honor

In "The Scarlet Letter," heroine Hester Prynne bears her shame on her chest. In the CTA's case, their sometime shame comes in the form of badges worn by bus operators-gone-bad.

Over the last few weeks, the "Going Public" inbox has been brimming with messages from riders unhappy about operator behavior. Here are the worst two in the bad-bus bunch:

#### Rumble on the route

A No. 144-Marine/Michigan Express rider e-mailed about a bus operator threatening to "whup his ass" for asking about the speed of the southbound bus. Kevin Swinehart, 44, said he asked about the speed only because the bus seemed to be going approximately 15 mph, and he wanted to know if he should take his chances on another bus.

"He refused to give me his name or badge number," Swinehart wrote in the e-mail. "Seems the law against threatening CTA employees has a proviso where the CTA employee can threaten passengers."

Not so, Swinehart, CTA spokeswoman Wanda Taylor says. Taylor encourages riders to contact the CTA at [ctahelp@transitchicago.com](mailto:ctahelp@transitchicago.com) or 1-888-YOUR-CTA with details including time of travel, location and route. Based on Swinehart's e-mail to me, he has enough information, though not a badge number, to help the agency narrow down his whodunit.

This operator's alleged behavior also begs the question of whether it would be helpful for the CTA to have audio installed on existing onboard cameras. Wouldn't that help determine what really went down in bus blowups? It's under discussion, Taylor said, adding: "Some customers think it would be helpful, but there may be others who would consider it invasive."

#### Reading sign language

A Gold Coast pedestrian said a southbound No. 36-Broadway blew through a stop sign and nearly hit him as he stepped into the crosswalk at Pearson and State Streets earlier this month.

"As a pedestrian, watching out for the ignorant cab drivers in this town is bad enough, but it's easy to write them off as independent drivers who don't give a damn," Tom Roper, 41, wrote. "It's the job of bus drivers to ensure the safety of the riding and walking public."

The incident involving Roper is being investigated, according to Taylor, who said CTA customer service forwarded the complaint to the general manager of the bus garage where the No. 36 originates.

If the operator is determined to be in the wrong, he or she could be disciplined through progressive guidelines ranging from written warnings to termination, according to Taylor. Disciplinary measures also take into account whether the operator has had other infractions, Taylor said.

Here's hoping justice is served in both bus cases. That would spare the CTA at least two scarlet letters.



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# Gang green

**They remind you to recycle; you remind them to step off. Ah, the life of eco-frenemies**

**By Tracy Swartz**

REDEYE

Maryanne and Larry Sickels say they eat organic produce, use energy-saving light bulbs, compost their food garbage in their pine grove and even mix their own household cleansers.

The econmania doesn't stop there. Maryanne Sickels, 33, said she brings a travel mug when she meets friends for coffee and sometimes takes her friends' disposable coffee cups home to recycle them. And if a friend throws a recyclable away in the garbage at the Sickels' home? She'll pick through the garbage, wash the container and put it into a blue bin.

But life wasn't always this green for the Spring Grove couple.

"[Larry] was using aerosol deodorant and aerosol hairspray and not giving thought to unplugging appliances," said Maryanne, who said she went green about a decade ago and now works as a representative for Shaklee, a natural nutrition and green cleaning products company.

Larry Sickels, 36, agreed it took some prodding from his wife to trash some of his anti-green ways.

"After she kept introducing things into our daily home, I just started to follow suit," he said. "It just becomes part of the everyday."

As more people decide to live a green lifestyle, they'll have to consider how the decision impacts their relationships and friendships—for better or for worse. Greeniacs who talked to RedEye said they've attempted to push their friends and family



**txtable**

**Green party**

What's your level of greenness? Text "green" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

- 1) I am very conscious of the environment.**
- 2) I am anti-green. 3) I don't care.**

members to also go green, sometimes to disastrous results. Trying to force others to change their wasteful ways, some eco-friendly Chicagoans have learned, can alienate friends to the point that the only meaningful relationship the environmentally conscious

have left is one with the Earth.

Luckily for them, Mother Nature is a pretty popular gal. A March Gallup poll of about 1,000 adults found that 28 percent of Americans reported making "major changes" in their lifestyles to protect the environment. Fifty-five percent of those surveyed said they made minor lifestyle changes.

The most common ways respondents said they altered their habits were by recycling, driving less, buying biodegradable products and conserving energy.

Those are some of the changes Elisa Redish, 19, is trying to implement in her Northwestern University dorm.

Redish, who lives in Chapin Hall on the Evanston campus, said she periodically e-

mails students in her dorm to remind them of the types of plastic they can recycle and how they can reduce the dorm's energy consumption.

Sometimes Redish, who is minoring in environmental studies, finds her messages elicit a less-than-friendly response.

Redish said people often will tease her by purposefully throwing a water bottle or a cardboard box away, and she sometimes sees eyes roll when she tells fellow students they should unplug a lamp because it's taking up energy even though the lamp is turned off.

"It depends on the person ... some just get frustrated," Redish said. "I do realize when I have to tone it down and not be preachy about it."

Larry Sickels says it took some prodding from his wife, Maryanne, to go green. "After she kept introducing things into our daily home, I just started to follow suit."

STACIE FREUDENBERG  
PHOTO FOR REDEYE

## Finding common ground

Is there a middle ground between the eco-maniacs and the eco-foes? RedEye devised four eco-nundrums and asked a green-ribbon panel to weigh in on how the problem should be solved. RedEye "Practically Green" blogger Supriya Doshi, [goantigreen.com](http://goantigreen.com) founder Matt Unger of Bloomingdale, self-proclaimed Chicago "enviromedian" (environment + comedian) James Wesley Jackson and Etiquette Chicago's Melenie Broyles offered their eco-opinions.

SITUATION	SUPRIYA DOSHI	MATT UNGER	MELENIE BROYLES	JAMES WESLEY JACKSON
<b>You love to recycle but your friend doesn't have blue bins and doesn't reuse anything. What should you do when you visit?</b>	Offer nicely to take home some of your friend's recyclables, since the friend doesn't have blue bins. Or mention how much less you have to take out the garbage since you started.	Throw everything out into the garbage, give my friend a big pat on the back and steal the neighbors' blue bins.	You might suggest your recycling company, because you are under the impression they may not be aware. I suggest using their trash cans and realizing that it is just one day.	Buy a blue bin and present it to your friend as a blue ski container.
<b>You have a roommate who showers for more than an hour each day, which you find extremely wasteful. What do you say?</b>	Tell them there isn't enough hot water left for you when they're done. And tell them they smell really good.	I'd ask my roommate why he takes such short showers, then encourage him to use the shower as a steamer rather than ironing his clothes.	If you are sharing the water bill, you can suggest they might cut down their time in the shower to help with expenses. Maybe give gentle advice on wasting water.	A short shower can improve relationships and reduce stress, not to mention the \$30 a month you save on soap.
<b>Your friend constantly lectures you about eating organic foods, commuting less and installing eco-friendly bulbs, but you don't want to change your ways. What do you say?</b>	Emphasize the things you are already doing. If that doesn't work, you can always hound them about something they're doing that you don't like.	I'd tell my friend that everyone has different opinions and that I vaguely respect his a tiny little bit.	Simply say: "I love that you are so passionate about the environment. I, however, am not, and know that you love me for who I am."	Do you know why there are more vegetarians? Because plants are whole lot easier to sneak up on.
<b>You are staying with a friend who has requested that you flush the toilet only if it's No. 2, which you find gross. What do you do?</b>	Say it's gross—politely, of course. Tell them you're uncomfortable or that you get queasy around, um, bodily fluids.	First, I would give my friend a really disgusted look. I would then vow to drive to my friend's house thrice a day (in a Hummer) and flush every toilet.	As the guest, you can deal with it for the day, or even simply say: "I am sorry but that makes me very uncomfortable. Do you mind if I flush just for today?"	I don't flush at all.



Jonathan Pirc of Lakeview said he quickly learned not to preach to his friends about the green life.

Pirc, 24, said the green light bulb went off over his head in January 2007, when he joined [afreshsqueezed.com](http://afreshsqueezed.com), a source of green living information for Chicagoans. Pirc said he didn't recycle before then, and now he recycles old computer equipment, reuses water and coffee containers, utilizes compact fluorescent light bulbs and eats organic food.

So is it too much to ask that his friends and family to follow suit?

Apparently it is. Pirc said some of his friends and family members weren't interested in going green no matter how much Pirc pressed. A few friends even went to the opposite end

of the green spectrum just to spite him.

Pirc said his friends blatantly threw their cans, bottles and papers into the garbage instead of the nearby recycling bin so Pirc would have to sort the recyclables out.

As a result, Pirc said he toned down his rhetoric and started subtly urging his green message. Now his family members eat more organic food than they did two years ago, Pirc reports. (Greeniacs prefer organic produce because non-organic produce sometimes is grown with pesticides that can create a chemical-filled runoff that pollutes drinking water.)

"People aren't going to live green [because] you tell them to. They're going to do it on their own accord," Pirc said.

Because having to change others' lifestyles can be such a turnoff, at least one green singles dating site has blossomed, especially in Chicago. [Planetearthsingles.com](http://planetearthsingles.com) has attracted a few thousand members from the Chicago area, said Jill Crosby, who handles marketing for the site.

But finding a green spouse might be easier than finding a green circle of friends.

Dr. Sarah Pressman Lovinger of Evanston, a medical internist who runs [healthyplanet.org](http://healthyplanet.org) and [healthypeople.org](http://healthypeople.org), said she doesn't "have any friends that are idiots and don't value recycling," but occasionally she encounters neighbors who use paper plates and aren't concerned about food waste.

That really bothers Lovinger, 47, who said

her house is "as green as I can possibly make it." Lovinger said she eats local produce, uses cloth napkins, drinks organic wine, composts her banana peels and edamame skins and hangs her laundry to dry.

So when Lovinger encounters a black-and-white environmental situation, there is no gray, just green.

Lovinger recalled a barbecue hosted by a neighbor she knew uses (gasp!) paper plates, so she brought reusable plates for the party and washed them afterward.

"If I go to someone else's house, I might make small suggestions, but I can't change their ways," Lovinger said. "I do think it can affect friendships. I don't think it's an issue to think delicately on." [TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM](mailto:TSWARTZ@TRIBUNE.COM)

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# On the outs?

**State lawmakers take the first step to remove Blagojevich from office**

**Chicago Tribune**

**SPRINGFIELD** The Illinois House launched its first-ever impeachment probe of a governor Monday, promising weeks of hearings detailing Gov. Blagojevich's alleged abuse of power, from enacting massive programs without legislative approval to seeking to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by President-elect Obama.

But the House also held off on calls to strip the disgraced governor of his power to appoint Obama's successor, angering Republicans who accused Democrats of a power play aimed at protecting their dominance of state politics.

House lawmakers voted 113-0 to authorize a committee to investigate a host of pay-to-play allegations leveled against the governor, just six days after he was arrested by federal agents at his North Side home. The vote marked the unique circumstance of Democratic lawmakers leading a bid to displace Illinois' first Democratic governor in a quarter-century.

House Speaker Michael Madigan, though co-chairing Blagojevich's 2006 re-election bid in a symbol of party unity, has been a top critic of the governor.

Asked about the criminal complaint against the governor, Madigan said, "I've had an opportunity to know Mr. Blagojevich for over six years so I was not surprised."

The House panel is expected to hold several weeks of hearings, scheduled to begin Tuesday, and has the power to issue subpoenas and compel witnesses to testify. The panel also will seek information from the U.S. attorney's office as well as information gained from other parts of the federal investigation, such as information arising from the conviction of top Blagojevich adviser and fundraiser Antonin "Tony" Rezko.

As Blagojevich retained noted criminal defense attorney Ed Genson on Monday, Blagojevich spokesman Lucio Guerrero brushed off the House action.

"Talk of impeachment is nothing new to the governor, and once the House makes its recommendation, then he will have more to say," Guerrero said.



**Gov. Blagojevich arrives Monday at a downtown office building. AP**

## Other developments

### Obama: Review shows no inappropriate contact

President-elect Obama said Monday a review by his own lawyer shows he had no direct contact with Gov. Blagojevich about the appointment of a Senate replacement, and transition aides did nothing inappropriate.

### Note from Patti

Any hopes of a peaceful holiday season in the Blagojevich neighborhood unraveled last week with the governor's arrest on charges alleging he sought bribes. Patti Blagojevich sent out notes over the weekend to surrounding homes, apologizing for the media "barrage" in Ravenswood Manor.

The notes were left in white envelopes,

dated 12-14-08, and were marked NEIGHBOR in bold black letters, sources said.

The note reads:

Dear Neighbor:

My husband and I would like to apologize to you and your family for the media barrage that descended on our neighborhood. While we signed up for this kind of attention by choosing a life in public service, you didn't. All you did was choose to live in our wonderful neighborhood.

We are very sorry for any inconvenience this has caused you. We hope it will soon subside, not only for the sake of our children but also for you and your family. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy NEW YEAR.

Sincerely, Patti Blagojevich

Genson sought to downplay the federal government's complaint against Blagojevich.

"The case that I've seen so far is significantly exaggerated," Genson told ABC News. "It's just not, it's not what people think it is."

Blagojevich showed no signs of giving up his post. On Monday, he signed a dozen bills into law, including one involving the horse-racing and casino industries that federal prosecutors allege Blagojevich was using to squeeze campaign contributions in exchange for his signature.

If the newly formed panel recommends impeachment, the House will vote on its findings. If Blagojevich is impeached by the House, the matter would go to the Senate, which acts as judge and jury. The chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court would preside over the chamber, and a conviction could result in the governor's removal from office.

If Blagojevich was forced from office or if the governor decided to resign, Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn would become the state's new chief executive.

## That's what he said

President-elect Obama's comments on the process for picking his successor as U.S. senator:

**NOV. 7 NEWS CONFERENCE**

"There's going to be a lot of good choices out there, but it is the governor's decision to make, not mine."

**DEC. 9 COMMENT TO THE PRESS POOL, ON THE DAY GOV. BLAGOJEVICH WAS ARRESTED**

"I had no contact with the governor or his office, and so I was not aware of what was happening."

**DEC. 9 INTERVIEW WITH THE TRIBUNE**

"I have not discussed the Senate seat with the governor at any time. My strong belief is that it needed to be filled by somebody who is going to represent the people of Illinois and fight for them. And beyond that, I was focused on the transition."

**THURSDAY NEWS CONFERENCE**

"I have never spoken to the governor on this subject. I'm confident that no representatives of mine would have any part of any deals related to this seat. I think the materials released by the U.S. attorney reflect that fact. I've asked my team to gather the facts of any contacts with the governor's office about this vacancy so that we can share them with you over the next few days. Finally, on this matter, let me say that this Senate seat does not belong to any politician to trade."

**MONDAY NEWS CONFERENCE**

"We were prepared to release the findings of the review that had been done, which are thorough and comprehensive. The U.S. attorney's office asked us to hold off releasing those for a week. So I would ask for your patience, because I do not want to interfere with an ongoing investigation. But there is nothing in the review that was presented to me that in any way contradicted my earlier statements that this appalling set of circumstances that we've seen arise had nothing to do with my office and that, you know, those facts will be forthcoming to all of you in due course."

# Lawsuit details painful delivery

Catherine Skol is not a wimp. She spent a decade as a Chicago police officer, working in rough assignments such as the tactical unit, until a head-on collision on the job put her on medical disability.

But none of that prepared her for the hell of labor she endured last March when she arrived at Rush University Medical Center at about 4 a.m. to have her fifth child. A civil suit filed Monday in Cook County said Dr. Scott Pierce—a fill-in for Skol's doctor who was out of town—arrived four hours later and immediately chastised Skol for not calling ahead. The suit said the doctor told Skol she would soon have the baby and that there was no time for pain medication.

Later, Pierce allegedly told a nurse that Skol deserved the pain because she had not called before coming in. "Sometimes pain is the best teacher," the suit quoted him as saying.

Pierce also berated her and other hospital staff who questioned him, telling her to "Shut up, close your mouth and push," the suit said. Pierce said Skol was likely to hemorrhage during birth and said the baby might die, causing Skol and her husband to fear complaining, the suit alleged.

After the birth, Pierce gave Skol needless stitches for tiny tears, using a needle that was unnecessarily large, the suit alleged.

A spokeswoman for Rush said Monday that the hospital doesn't condone the actions described in the suit but said Pierce is in private practice and not employed by the hospital. After an investigation, the hospital disciplined him with a written warning and indefinite probation. If he erred again, he would then be barred from the hospital, she said.

Skol's attorney, Kathleen Zellner, said the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation also is investigating Pierce. Pierce declined to comment.

"It was the worst pain I ever had in my life," said Skol, 40. "I just don't want him to hurt another person."



## Mag Mile shooting

An FBI agent on Monday shot a bank robbery suspect who tried to run over another agent with an FBI vehicle near the Water Tower at North Michigan Avenue and East Pearson Street. It was unclear how the suspect got control of the vehicle. **KUNI TAKAHASHI/Tribune**

# Slip-sliding away

As Donna Bavido walked out of Union Station on Monday morning, she saw the sheet of ice ahead and tried her best to avoid a fall.

But fall she did. Twice.

"I'm sore all over," said the 52-year-old Round Lake resident who's had back surgery, bilateral knee surgery and an Achilles tendon repaired. "My arms kill. I tried protecting my legs by falling on my arms."

Bavido called Metra to complain but was told the city was responsible for de-icing the sidewalk on Canal Street, where she fell.

Officials with the Chicago Department of Transportation said Monday that businesses and residents are responsible for clearing sidewalks adjacent to their property.

At Union Station, Amtrak was ultimately responsible. Amtrak officials said they had been pre-treat-

ing the sidewalk before the freezing rain began early Monday and continued with salt, calcium chloride and chipping away tracts of ice.

Bavido was by no means the only one who fell Monday. Northwestern Memorial Hospital's emergency room saw an increase in patients coming in with injuries such as sprains and broken bones because of slips and falls on the ice, said hospital spokeswoman Amy Dobrozsi.

Illinois State Police reported 24 spinouts and minor fender benders on expressways and tollways in the six collar counties.

Residents who tip-toed, glided or walked sideways along icy sidewalks downtown wondered why the ice hadn't been cleaned and no one was held responsible. According to city ordinances, residents who fail to clean sidewalks can be fined up to \$50, businesses and commercial properties up to \$500.

## Obama picks Duncan for education post

President-elect Obama will name Chicago Public Schools chief Arne Duncan as his Secretary of Education at a West Side news conference Tuesday morning, a transition official said.

The two men are friends and often play basketball together.

The selection of a Chicagoan for his Cabinet suggests the president-elect has no intention of turning away



**Duncan**

from the city during a time when alleged corruption involving Gov. Blagojevich has made national news, contributing to the state's reputation for political sleaze.

Duncan won praise last week during a Chicago visit by U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, who said she believed the CPS chief had the necessary skills to take her place.

A fellow Harvard alum, Duncan was among a group Obama played basketball with on Election Day. The two have played together for more than a decade.

## Fatal shooting could cost city

A Chicago City Council committee on Monday recommended paying \$2.25 million to the family of a teenage home invader fatally shot by an off-duty police officer now doing time for killing his wife. Four aldermen voted against the payment to the family of Juan "Johnny" Salazar, 14, after hearing details about what Finance Committee Chairman Ed Burke (14th) called "one of the more bizarre" cases before his committee.

## Cable show leads to arrest

Cook County Sheriff's Department police Monday arrested a woman who has been wanted since 2006 for allegedly setting a fire in Ford Heights that caused \$25,000 in damage. Cherilyn Isom, 33, was taken into custody after someone called the department's tip line earlier in the morning. Isom had been featured on the "Police Blotter on Demand" cable TV show, which began airing on Comcast Digital Cable last month. She is the first person featured on the show to be arrested, police said.

## Bodies from crash identified

The bodies of two men who were burned beyond recognition in a fiery crash early Sunday on the South Side have been identified. Vaughn Quinn, 22, and Emmanuel Rebb, 28, were killed when their car struck a pole, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. The accident happened about 4:15 a.m. Sunday at 87th Street and Michigan Avenue, police said. Both men died at the scene.

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# 'SNL' skit irks governor

**1** ALBANY, N.Y. A "Saturday Night Live" skit portraying New York's blind governor as a bumbling leader didn't get a laugh from Gov. David Paterson. Paterson's office said the skit ridiculed people with physical disabilities and implied that disabled people are incapable of having jobs with serious responsibilities.

"The governor is sure that 'Saturday Night Live,' with all of its talent, can find a way to be funny without being offensive," Paterson spokesman Errol Cockfield said in a statement Sunday. "Knowing the governor, he might even have some suggestions himself."

The skit that aired Saturday featured "SNL" cast member Fred Armisen as Paterson, who must appoint someone to replace Sen. Hillary Clinton. Armisen said he has three criteria for filling the job: economic experience, upstate influence and someone who is disabled and unprepared for the job—like himself. He held up a chart illustrating the state's job losses upside down.

National Federation of the Blind spokesman Chris Daniels said the portrayal suggesting Paterson as befuddled and disoriented because of his blindness is "absolutely wrong." No one from NBC, which produces "SNL," could be reached for comment.

## States putting more criminal records online

**2** WATERBURY, Vt. Worried your daughter's new boyfriend might have a nefarious past? Want to know whether the job applicant in front of you has a rap sheet?

Finding out can be a mouse click away, thanks to the growing crop of searchable online databases run directly by states. Vermont launched its service Monday, and now about 20 states have some form of them.

The Web sites provide a valuable and timesaving service to would-be employers and businesses by allowing them to look up criminal convictions without having to submit written requests and wait for the responses. And they're popular: Last month alone, Florida's site performed 38,755 record checks.

But the Internet debut of information historically kept in courthouses in paper files can magnify the harm of clerical errors, expose states to liability for mistakes and spell new headaches for people who've long since done their time, only to have information about their crime bared anew.

"It's unfortunate in that it threatens what I see as the uniquely American ideal of being able to start over, after you've paid your penance, to go to a new community without the blemish of your crime and starting a new life," said Kevin Bankston, a staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based group that focuses on civil liberties online.

### SEN. CAROLINE KENNEDY?

Caroline Kennedy has told New York Gov. David Paterson she wants to be the state's next senator, becoming the highest-profile person to actively lobby for the seat being vacated by Hillary Clinton.

Kennedy told the Democratic governor she wants the job should Clinton be confirmed as secretary of state for President-elect Obama, according to two people familiar with the conversations between Kennedy and Paterson.

If appointed by Paterson, the daughter of President John F. Kennedy would hold the seat once occupied by her late uncle, Robert F. Kennedy.

Paterson has sole authority to name a replacement for Clinton.



Kennedy



### 4 A whopper of a customer

Even people driving Rolls-Royces like a Whopper every once in a while, it seems. AP

### 5 Storm collapses roof

A powerful storm slammed into California on Monday, producing heavy rain that collapsed a roof at an occupational school in L.A. and forced hundreds to flee homes in an area devastated by recent wildfires. At least seven people were hurt.

### 6 Iran tones it down

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday in Washington, D.C., that Iran has chosen to scale back much of its most troubling interference in Iraq, and she credits the strength of U.S. pressure.

### 7 26 rescued from boat

The Coast Guard says it rescued 26 people from a yacht that ran aground on rocks and took on water Sunday in San Francisco Bay. No injuries were reported.

### Sweet deal?

Coca-Cola will begin selling products made with a new zero-calorie sweetener despite no official nod from the government, but rival PepsiCo said Monday it won't follow suit. The Food and Drug Administration is expected to determine that sweetener made from the herb stevia is "generally regarded as safe," but the agency's sign-off has taken longer than expected.

### Record low interest rates

The Federal Reserve is widely expected to ratchet down a key interest rate—perhaps to an all-time low—to prevent the sinking economy from falling deeper into the doldrums.

### Investor scheme grows

The list of investors who say they were duped in one of Wall Street's biggest Ponzi schemes is growing, snaring some of the world's biggest banking institutions and hedge funds, the super rich and the famous, pensioners and charities.

### DIGIT

86

Number of days that gasoline prices fell starting in July, from \$4.11 per gallon to \$1.65 per gallon. Prices rose over the weekend ahead of an OPEC meeting this week where huge production cuts are expected.

## Doggone cold and snowy



**3** Golden retriever Zane plays in the snow in Aberdeen, S.D., but blizzard conditions were far from fun across the northern Plains after officials closed highways and urged people to stay indoors. More than a foot of snow fell in some areas and wind chills fell as low as minus 35 in some instances. AP





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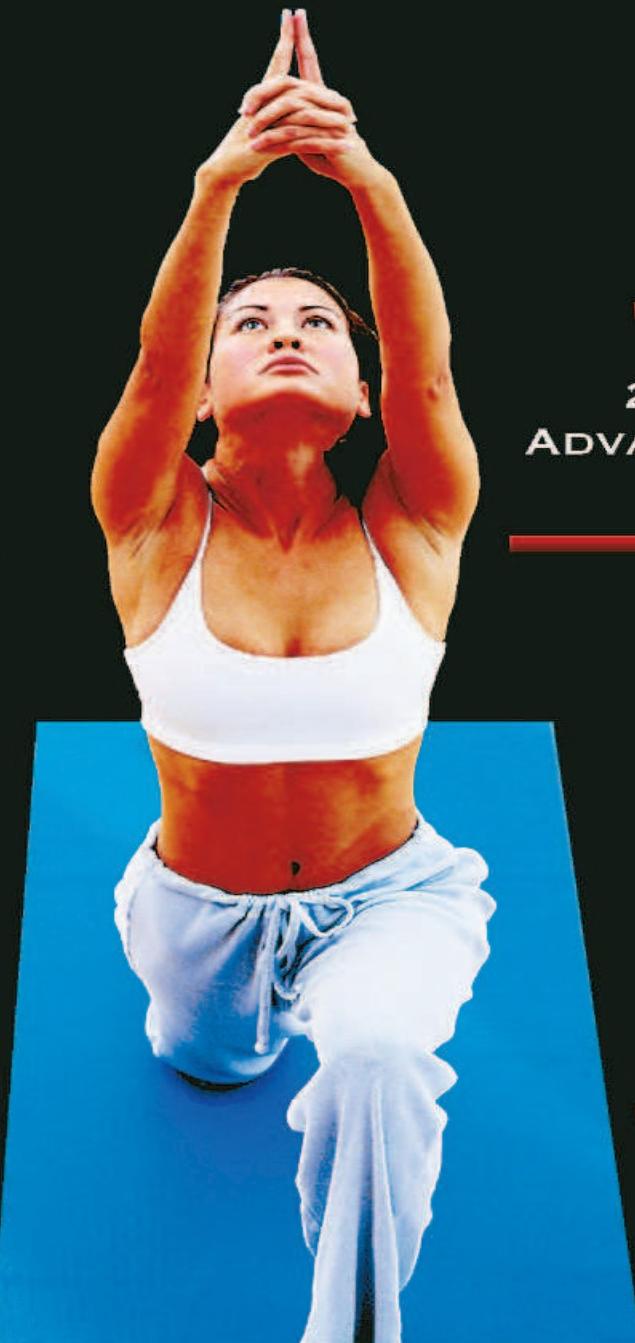
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# Iraqis demand release of shoe-hurling reporter

**1 BAGHDAD** Thousands of Iraqis took to the streets Monday to demand the release of a reporter who threw his shoes at President Bush in anger at U.S. policies, as support for the act and the journalist flowed in from across the Arab world.

The protests came as suicide bombers and gunmen targeted Iraqi police, plus U.S.-allied Sunni guards and civilians, in a series of attacks Monday that killed at least 17 people and wounded more than a dozen others, officials said.

The journalist, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, was being held by Iraqi security Monday and interrogated about whether anybody had paid him to throw his shoes at Bush during a news conference Sunday in Baghdad, said an Iraqi official.

He also was being tested for alcohol and drugs, and his shoes were held as evidence, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Iraqi security guards wrestled al-Zeidi to the ground immediately after he tossed his shoes.

Bush was not hit by the shoes, but White House press secretary Dana Perino suffered an eye injury when she was hit in the face with a microphone during the melee.

Many are fed up with U.S. policy and still angry over Bush's decision to invade Iraq in 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein.

In Jordan, a strong U.S. ally, a 42-year-old businessman, Samer Tabalat, praised al-Zeidi as "the man. ... He did what Arab leaders failed to do."

## SHOE SIGNIFICANCE

Showing the sole of your shoe to someone in the Arab world is a sign of extreme disrespect, and throwing your shoes is even worse. Iraqis whacked a statue of Saddam Hussein with their shoes after Marines toppled it after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.



## 4 More protests

Youths protested outside of Athens' main police headquarters on Monday, in the second week of violent protests over the shooting death of a teenager. GETTY IMAGES

## 5 Congo offensive

Three African armies have launched an offensive against Ugandan rebels based in eastern Congo in an attempt to end one of the continent's longest and most brutal wars, military officials said Monday.

## 6 U.S. expert kidnapped

A well-known U.S. anti-kidnapping expert—Felix Batista—has himself fallen victim to Mexico's wave of abductions as unidentified assailants snatched him from a street in Saltillo, one of his employers said Monday.

## 7 Thailand's new PM

Thailand's parliament chose Oxford-educated opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva as prime minister Monday, capping six months of violent anti-government protests that included a weeklong takeover of Bangkok's two airports.

## 8 Ferry capsizes

An overcrowded ferry with more than 100 passengers capsized after being battered by big waves in the northeastern Philippines, drowning at least 23 people and leaving 33 missing, officials in Manila said Monday.

## 9 Packed bus plunges

A bus packed with passengers traveling along a narrow road in Minya, Egypt, plunged into an irrigation canal Sunday, killing 57 people, officials said.

## 10 Japan auto worries

Even as General Motors and the entire U.S. auto industry teeters on the edge of collapse, its major rivals are hardly celebrating. Toyota and other Japanese carmakers say the bankruptcy of any of Detroit's Big Three would spell serious trouble for them as well.

## DIGIT

## 140 million years

The tiny tangled threads of the world's oldest spider web have been found encased in a prehistoric piece of amber, a British scientist said Monday in London. Oxford University paleobiologist Martin Brasier said the 140 million-year-old webbing provides evidence that arachnids had been ensnaring their prey in silken nets since the dinosaur age.



Chinese authorities shut down an unregulated food processing plant last week. AP

## China bans toxic food additives

**2 BEIJING** Substances commonly used as industrial dyes, insecticides and drain cleaners were included on a list of illegal food additives China released Monday as part of a monthslong government crackdown aimed at improving the country's shoddy food safety record.

Among the 17 banned substances was boric acid, commonly used as an insecticide, which is mixed with noodles and meatballs to increase elasticity, a statement posted on the Ministry of Health Web site said. Also forbidden was industrial formaldehyde and lye, used in making soap and drain cleaner and added to water used to soak some types of dried seafood to make the products appear fresher and bigger.

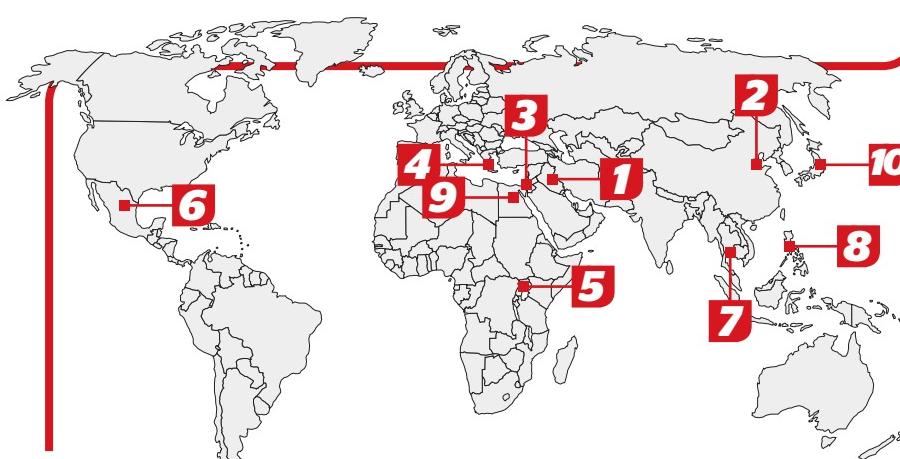
A scandal over melamine-tainted infant formula, which likely killed six babies and sickened 294,000 others earlier this year, prompted the government food safety campaign last week.

Also on the list were various industrial dyes that are added to improve the appearance of food products.

## Finally free



**3 RAMALLAH, West Bank** Israel released 224 Palestinian prisoners Monday in a gesture to moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and jubilant detainees waving Palestinian flags jumped on the roof of one of the buses carrying them to freedom. AP



# sports

# The Detroit Losers

Lions have chance to become NFL's first 0-16 team

## Associated Press

**DETROIT** The winless Lions didn't get this awful overnight. It took several years and many mistakes by Matt Millen.

The former general manager took over a mediocre franchise in 2001 and over seven-plus seasons, he built a team bad enough to pose a threat to be the NFL's first 0-16 team. Twice.

Millen's first team started 0-12, and the last one he shaped also has lost its first 14 games, heading into the final two weeks of the season against New Orleans and at Green Bay.

The Lions are an NFL-worst 31-95 since the Ford family handed the keys to their franchise to a Super Bowl-winning linebacker and TV analyst without a day of front-office experience.

Their winning percentage of about .25 is the worst by an NFL team over an eight-season stretch since 1950, according to STATS.

Angry fans at Ford Field chanted for Millen to be fired and even staged a march to protest his employment, but apathy has led to many of this year's games not selling out. Some fans have mocked the franchise by asking the government to bail out the team just as Detroit's automakers are pleading with Congress for help.

"Matt Millen deserves a majority of the blame because the talent here is awful," said former Lion Kelvin Pritchett. "He's a great guy, and if you talk to him long enough, he could sell you a stick of bubble gum, but he missed on most of his draft picks."

Millen was the first executive to take wide receivers in the first round of three straight drafts since the NFL and AFL merged drafts in 1967, and the experiment failed miserably, as did quarterback Joey Harrington.

"You can't blow that many first-round picks and have a good team," said former New York Giants coach Jim Fassel, who watched the Lions in person on Thanksgiving as a radio analyst. "If your first-round players aren't Pro Bowlers, they should at least be major contributors."

Harrington was drafted No. 3 overall in

2002. After Detroit traded him two years ago, he has been cut five times and is clinging to a job as a third-string quarterback in New Orleans.

Charles Rogers, drafted No. 2 in 2003, is out of the league. An arbitrator ruled Rogers has to repay the Lions \$8.5 million for diminishing his value by failing a drug test in 2005, when his career ended. But the team isn't banking on collecting much, if any, money from him.

"They can't do it alone," Millen said in a 2003 interview with The Associated Press when asked about Harrington and Rogers. "But in order for us to get where we want to get, we can't look back and say we missed with those guys."

Millen also missed by drafting Mike Williams, taking the overweight receiver 10th overall in 2005, and on many more players in the draft.

A couple of players—Shaun Rogers and Roy Williams—earned trips to the Pro Bowl, but they were both dealt within the past year.

It's perhaps early to judge the 2008 draft, but it appears as if Millen's first draft in 2001 was his only solid one.

Millen's first pick was Jeff Backus, a left tackle who has started each of the 124 games in his career. In the second round, he took center Dominic Raiola, who started 104 straight games, and Shaun Rogers, a two-time Pro Bowler.

Of course, the Lions haven't won with them, either. When Raiola looks around the locker room, he can count only a few players—Backus, Cory Redding and himself—who are in their second contracts after being drafted by Detroit.

"We haven't had enough draft picks that have panned out," Raiola said. "We wasted too much. Fifteen guys at least on this team should be draft picks. You can't hit on all of them, but you should hit right on 80 percent of them."

"Your first-round picks—especially the ones in the top 10—have to pan out, and they haven't around here."

The Detroit Lions' Kaka Alama-Francis is on one knee during Sunday's game against the Colts. The Lions' winning percentage of about .25 is the worst by an NFL team over an eight-season stretch since 1950. **MCT**



## Say what?

The Detroit Lions are proud that they've stuck together and competed during their winless season. At least they say they are. RedEye put some players' quotes through our special translator to see what they might have really meant.

WHO SAID IT	WHAT HE SAID	WHAT HE MEANT
QUARTERBACK DAN ORLOVSKY	"We have a really good group of guys who aren't going to quit. Everyone knows what we're trying to avoid."	"We already quit, but please, oh please, don't let us become the worst team in NFL history."
TACKLE JEFF BACKUS	"It could be a mess. It could be a soap opera in here, but it's not."	"Not only can we not play football, but we can't even produce good locker room drama."
COACH ROD MARINELLI	"I've said all along, I'm extremely proud of this team and how they work."	"My only choice is to be proud of how this team works, because I won't get the chance to be proud of their record."
DEFENSIVE END DEWAYNE WHITE <small>on the Lions playing more competitively on the road</small>	"I couldn't tell you why."	"I couldn't tell you why."

## THE L WORD

The Lions aren't alone. There are plenty of losers all across pop culture and sports, and they are not necessarily outcasts. Take a look.

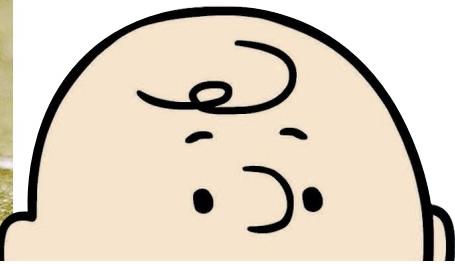


### THE WASHINGTON GENERALS

There would be no Harlem Globetrotters without the Generals. Since 1971, according to Sports Illustrated in 2006, the Generals have not beaten the Globetrotters and have racked up about 15,000 losses. That should make the Lions feel better.

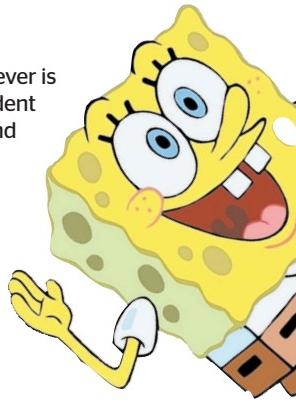
### CHARLIE BROWN

He keeps falling for the same trick year after year: Lucy holds a football for Chuck to kick, but he misses it—every time. He can't even pick out a good Christmas tree.



### SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

Whether he's a loser or an underachiever is debatable, but the Bikini Bottom resident works as a cook at the Krusty Krab and can't pass his boating license test. He does, however, have a knack for winning the Krusty Krab's employee of the month award. Of course, there are only two employees.



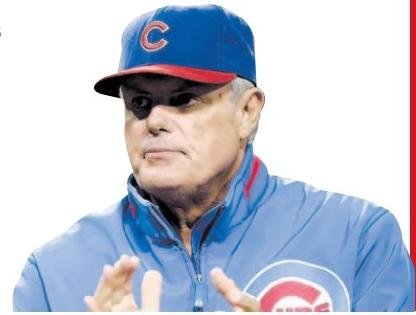
### CUBS

You've heard of these guys. The Lovable Losers. Cubs fans have waited since 1908 for a World Series title. At least a few Lions fans were around when the team won its last title in 1957.



### SUSAN LUCCI

The "All My Children" star was nominated for 18 Emmys for her work before she finally won in 1999. Before her win, she turned her reputation as a perennial loser to her advantage, appearing on "Saturday Night Live" and lampooning herself in a TV commercial.



## Winter blunderland

As football season draws toward a close, we asked our Twitter followers how they are feeling about the Bears and their chances to make the playoffs. Here are some responses. Want to play for team RedEye? Try out at [twitter.com/redeyechicago](http://twitter.com/redeyechicago)



**fan stands**  
[redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com)

Readers step on their soapbox about the state of Chicago sports. You can join them online at [twitter.com/redeyechicago](http://twitter.com/redeyechicago), via e-mail to [redeyesports@tribune.com](mailto:redeyesports@tribune.com) or by texting "whiz" and your comment to 47383.

"While our playoff chances grow narrower week-by-week, at least we did better than last year and better than the Packers."  
**mikeabdul**

"I think they will make the playoffs but I do not expect much out of them such as winning the Super Bowl."  
**mistical**

"The Bears are done. They only look like a playoff team one or two quarters of every game. Plus, the Vikings are playing well."  
**chicagodenizen**

"I'm not feeling too good about it. I shouldn't have to be doing math to figure out 'if' we get in. We are better than this."  
**RoboElectric**

"I am hoping we can pull it out, but it will be a tough battle for both us or the Vikings. Neither of them have easy teams."  
**specialKevin**

"They'll make it to the playoffs miraculously and pull a Chicago Cubs and choke first round."  
**danno1227**

"It is one's duty as a Chicagoan to assume any team will make the playoffs. Hope = bad luck."  
**paginatrix**

"I like the Bears playoff chances as much as I like the chances of Wesley Snipes winning an Oscar."  
**rangelie**

# Still afloat

The economic crisis in America has claimed the Arena Football League. But Five on Five carries on, for better or worse.



TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD <a href="mailto:jgreenfield@tribune.com">jgreenfield@tribune.com</a>	RAHULA STROHL <a href="mailto:rstrohl@tribune.com">rstrohl@tribune.com</a>	LEO EBERSOLE <a href="mailto:lebersole@tribune.com">lebersole@tribune.com</a>	TRACY SWARTZ <a href="mailto:tswartz@tribune.com">tswartz@tribune.com</a>	BRIAN MOORE <a href="mailto:brmoore@tribune.com">brmoore@tribune.com</a>
1 What's it gonna take for the Bears to make the playoffs?	Two wins and two Vikings losses. And to think I flunked algebra and geometry.	Bobby Wade and Bernard Berrian returning to the players they were for the Bears.	At this point they're going to need Devin intervention.	A Festivus Miracle. Sadly, the Bears are on the wrong side of the defeats of strength.	A lot more Forte and a lot less Connect Four.
2 The Detroit Lions are to the NFL as ...	... Detroit is to the U.S.	... nothing. They are the comparison by which other things are crappy.	... "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo" is to the contributions of modern film.	... Illinois is to the U.S. An embarrassing evil that can't succeed, er, secede.	... Jimmy is to the Hair Club for Men.
3 The Bulls and Blackhawks would make the playoffs if their seasons ended. Thoughts?	Give me playoff hockey or give me death. Give me playoff basketball or anything else.	And all it took was to play in a league where more than half the teams make it.	In 18 months, when those playoffs end, we'll know if they delivered on the promise.	Bring on the playoff beards! The women and the facial hair!	The Bears were once in control of their playoff destiny too. Look where that got them.
4 The Blackhawks have won four straight. What's their secret?	Fizzy-lifting drinks.	Karma from their Thanksgiving sojourn. That'll wear off by the new year, though.	New artistic director Michelle Kwan.	They've got hand, but now they're well on their way to a flush.	High-sticking and violent checking—and that's just the pregame warmup.
5 Who said this: "If you want to be somebody, you've got to kill everybody."	My mentor, who mysteriously disappeared years ago without a trace.	Shaquille bin Laden.	Ms. Pac-Man. Total psychopath. A lot of people don't know that.	Charlie Weis. And by "everybody," he means six cheeseburgers.	Tracy in her manifesto. Oops, I wasn't supposed to say anything yet.

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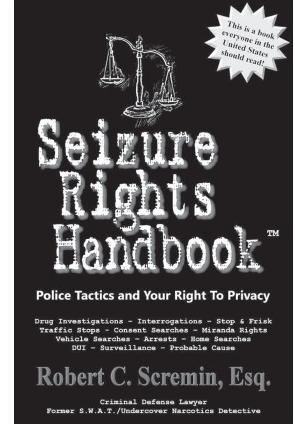
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Sorry if this column appears murky—my tears might be smearing the newsprint.

In case you haven't heard, the Arena Football League looks like it is shutting down.

The AFL's Chicago Rush supplied my football fix during the NFL's off-season. Now, I guess it's down to basketball, baseball and hockey.

**BULLS AT  
CHARLOTTE**

6 p.m. CSN  
The Bobcats are one of the worst teams in the East, which virtually assures a Bulls loss.

**BLACKHAWKS AT  
EDMONTON**

8:30 p.m. WGN  
You think it's cold here, imagine what it's like in Canada.

**COLLEGE  
BASKETBALL****MARQUETTE VS.  
TENNESSEE**

8:30 p.m. ESPN  
If Dwyane Wade still played for the Golden Eagles, this would be quite a game to watch.



**"These are trying economic times."**

**JON BON JOVI**, co-owner of the Philadelphia Soul, in a statement

AP FILE

# AFL sacks season

**NEW YORK** The Arena Football League canceled its 2009 season Monday pending an agreement with its players union. The decision throws the future of the 22-year-old league into question.

The AFL's owners voted against playing next year during a conference call Sunday night. It was unclear what had changed since the league issued a statement Wednesday night that said the 2009 season had not been suspended "despite rumors and reports to the contrary."

The league said in Monday's statement it was "developing a long-term plan to improve its economic model."

"Every owner in the AFL is strongly committed to the league, the game, and, most importantly, the fans," acting commissioner Ed Policy said in a statement. "Owners, however, recognize that, especially in light of the current unprecedented economic climate, the AFL, as a business enterprise, needs to be restructured if it is to continue to provide its unique brand of this affordable, fan-friendly sport."

"These are trying economic times," rocker Jon Bon Jovi, co-owner of the Philadelphia Soul, said in a statement. "The revamping will ensure that the AFL continues to provide value to its fans and not only survives but thrives in the years to come."

## Rush supports AFL's decision

Rush General Manager Mike Polisky said during a news conference Monday that the club supports the AFL's decision to cancel its 2009 season.

"What transpired with the economy over the last three or four months was the impetus for this decision to be made and to be made quickly," he said.

Polisky says the team may have to lay off 30 of its employees, not including players.

Rush team officials say they're refunding all season tickets and promising ticket-holders the chance to buy seats for any 2010 season games.



**Polisky**

## Woods 'disappointed' in caddie

Tiger Woods said he was disappointed by his caddie's disparaging comments about Phil Mickelson in New Zealand newspapers. Steve Williams was quoted in the Taranki Daily News as saying he wouldn't call Mickelson a great player "because I think he's a [expletive]." "I was disappointed to read the comments attributed to Steve Williams about Phil Mickelson, a player that I respect," Woods said in a statement Monday.

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Cleveland 10, Philadelphia 30



The Eagles' Kevin Curtis scores a touchdown against the Browns. MCT

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# metromix



# Meatloaf meets its MATCH

**The Meatloaf Bakery's Cynthia Kallile takes the savory cupcake trend to new extremes**

By M. Kathleen Pratt

Cynthia Kallile loves meatloaf. Big deal, right? Who doesn't? But there's a significant difference between Kallile and the rest of the meatloaf-loving masses: She spent three years perfecting her recipes, added one wildly imaginative twist, then left her job in corporate communications to dedicate herself entirely to the iconic American comfort food.

Last week, Kallile opened the Meatloaf Bakery, a carryout-focused Lincoln Park spot where the lineup includes eight varieties of meatloaf, from the classic Mother Loaf, based on her mom's recipe, to the Wing and a Prayer Loaf, a Buffalo wing-inspired ground chicken loaf with blue cheese running through it. There also are daily specials such as Lamb-a-Licious, Nutty Veggie Loaf and Chicken Shish-Kaloaf, Kallile's attempt to replicate the taste of a chicken shish kebab in meatloaf form.

Except—here's the twist—it's not exactly in meatloaf form. Kallile's meatloaf is shaped like cupcakes and baked goods, then "frosted" with a potato, cheese or veggie topping. The Italian Loaf-a-Roma, for example, is formed to look like a cake and frosted with angel hair pasta tossed in marinara sauce, while the No Buns About It Burger Loaf is in cake form, frosted with three-cheese mashed potatoes.

As restaurant concepts go, it's easily the wackiest thing we've heard of all year. So we called up Kallile, hoping for a glimpse inside the creative mind of a professional meatloaf cupcake baker.

#### We have to ask: Why meatloaf?

I've always wanted to do something with food. ... I come from a cooking family. My mother's an amazing cook and I like to cook. And I just like to play with

**The Meatloaf Bakery**  
2464 N. Clark St.  
773-698-6667

recipes and not follow recipes—and meatloaf is a perfect way to do it, because you can throw ingredients together.

#### But how do you get from regular meatloaf to meatloaf shaped like baked goods?

I started working on different recipes, and I had an assist from my nephew in New York, who's a foodie. And in New York, there are these one-item concepts, and we just said, you know, let's go with meatloaf. And then I had the idea, with all the cupcake frenzy—you know, meatloaf basically is unattractive—so let's make it fun-looking.



**Cynthia Kallile and her  
No Buns About It meatloaf cake**  
JASON LITTLE FOR METROMIX

#### What's next?

You know how you get the profiteroles with the ice cream? I'd love to do just little profiteroles with a blob of meatloaf. You could do like a jelly roll ... the possibilities are endless.

**Your menu says you'll do special orders. Would you ever attempt a meatloaf wedding cake if some meatloaf lover wanted one at her wedding?**

Sure, why not? Depends on how many layers she wants ... that would be tricky.

**You obviously like meatloaf. But do you like cupcakes?**

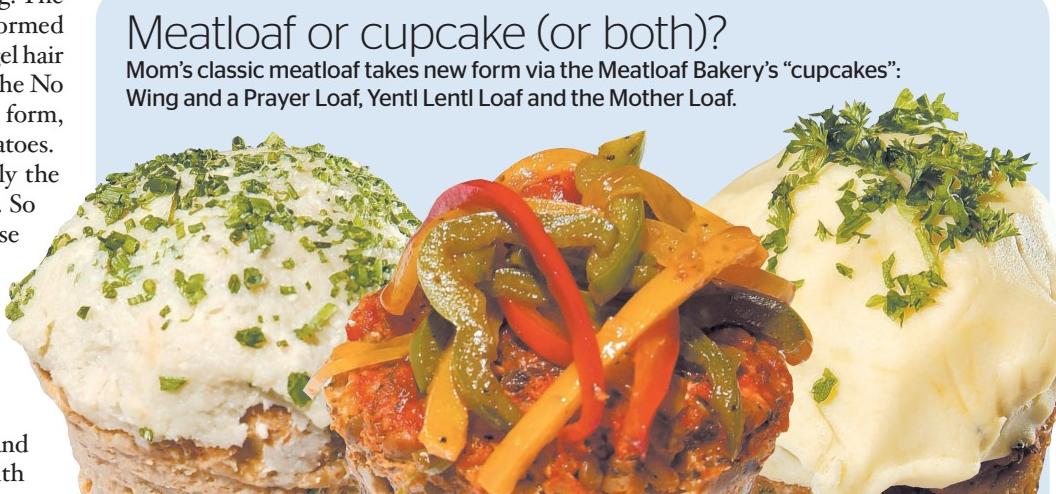
Yes, I've always liked cupcakes. I'm kind of a purist, which is interesting, because I've created all of these interesting variations on meatloaf. But when it comes to cake, I just like a wonderful vanilla cupcake with a fabulous vanilla frosting.

**Have you heard of Meat Loaf, the musician?**

Oh, yeah! I have. "Bat out of Hell." I like a couple of his songs.

#### Do you have a favorite?

No, but maybe I'll have him here for my grand opening. Wouldn't that be fun?



M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER.  
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## best bets

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### TUESDAY FREEBIE

#### Hanukkah hounds

Barker & Meowsky,  
1003 W. Armitage  
Ave. 773-868-0200.

Every dog has its ... holiday? At the pup-friendly **Canine Hanukkah Party**, dogs get the gift of kosher food samples, coupons and prizes such as pet collars and toys. Partial proceeds from sales benefit Keshet, which offers programs for kids with special needs. Noon.



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#### Local vocals

Victor Hotel, 311 N. Sangamon St.

Check out emerging hip-hop artists from Chicago and the region at **Collabo**, a music industry mixer for folks in—and fans of—the music biz. Performances by Malik Yusef, Asad Younglion, Global Gangstas, Jak Frost and others highlight the party; DJs Shaun T and Bigg spin. Includes appetizers, Remy Martin cocktails and a raffle. Bypass the cover by bringing a toy donation for Chicago Neighbors United and Youth Can Foundation. 7 p.m. \$10. [773-891-4579](tel:773-891-4579).

#### Holiday spirits

China Grill, 230 N. Michigan Ave. 312-334-6700.

If seasonal stress is driving you to drink, learn how to do it in style at a **holiday cocktails class**. Resident mixologist Daryl Freeman demonstrates how to make festive drinks such as the Grinch Shooter (sake, Godiva Dark and creme de menthe), Fireside Chat (hot apple cider, bourbon and amaretto) and Peppermint Bliss (Stoli Vanil, Baileys, Frangelico, Godiva Dark and peppermint schnapps). Includes drinks and appetizers. 6 p.m. \$30. Reservations required.

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#### Born again

Sonotheque, 1444 W. Chicago Ave. 312-226-7600.

The beat goes on at **Rebirth: Sonotheque Six-Year Anniversary Party**. DJs Joe Bryl and Eric Williams spin soulful house, nu jazz, Brazilian, funk, disco and more. Includes \$5 well drinks and a CD for the first 200 guests. 9 p.m. \$5. No cover with R.S.V.P.: [info@sonotheque.net](mailto:info@sonotheque.net).

thu  
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#### Night time is the right time

Foster Avenue and Clark Street, 5200 N. Clark St.

If your 9-to-5 gig complicates your search for the perfect gift, take advantage of extended shopping hours at **Later Night Andersonville**. The sequel to the annual Late Night Andersonville, which took place Dec. 5, features discounts at 42 restaurants and stores along Clark Street, plus complimentary refreshments and street-side entertainment. 6 p.m. Free. [773-728-2995](tel:773-728-2995).

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#### Claus for celebration

Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-6604.

Bailouts and Blago scandals do not holiday cheer make, but you're sure to find good tidings at the **25th Annual Christmas Sing-Along and Double Feature**. Sing carols with Santa between screenings of "White Christmas" (7 p.m.) and "It's a Wonderful Life" (9:50 p.m.). Through Dec. 24. \$10 for one film; \$15 for double feature. Tickets: [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at [mmcguire@tribune.com](mailto:mmcguire@tribune.com)

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## Metromix's top party picks

Stone Lotus  
FILE FOR METROMIX**SILVER CLOUD BAR & GRILL**

8 p.m.: Cat Power CD release party. Listen to the Matador recording artist's new EP "Dark End of the Street." Includes CD raffles and \$2 cans of beer. No cover; 1700 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-6212.

**MARTYRS'**

8 p.m.: Chicago Flair. A variety revue features performances by burlesque artists including Miss Maya Sinstress,

Ms. Bea Haven, Viva La Muerte and others, plus DJ Lee Farmer, a fashion show by House of Bias and more. \$15; 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

**STONE LOTUS**

10 p.m.: Candy Cane Holiday Bash. Celebrate the season with candy canes, cookies and other treats while a DJ spins. \$20; 873 N. Orleans St. 312-440-9680.

**ADDICTION SPORTS  
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\$3 Stella, Harp, Bass, Newcastle and Guinness bottles, \$4 off pizzas, \$5 glasses of wine; 1023 W. Lake St., Chicago. 312-421-8845.

**BIG CHICKS**

\$4 BlueMANades, \$5 turkey burgers; 5024 N. Sheridan Rd. 773-728-5511.

**BLACK DUCK  
TAVERN AND GRILLE**

Half-price appetizers; 1800 N. Halsted St. 312-664-1801.

**CORTLAND'S GARAGE**

\$3 Bud and Bud Light bottles, \$4 import bottles, \$5 Ketel One cocktails; 1645 W. Cortland St. 773-862-7877.

**CRUST**

\$2 PBRs, \$3 Jameson shots; 2056-58 W. Division St. 773-235-5511.

**DEJA VU**

Roadhouse Reunion Tuesdays. \$3 shots, \$3 Heineken drafts, \$4 bombs; \$5 for non-service industry workers; 2624 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-871-0205.

**EMERALD LOOP**

\$4.50 beer of the month drafts, \$6 burgers with fries; 216 N. Wabash Ave. 312-263-0200.

**THE FRANKLIN TAP**

\$5 Patron Silver margaritas, \$5 martinis, half-price appetizers with drink purchase after 6 p.m.; 325 S. Franklin St. 312-212-3262.

**GRAND RIVER**

25 cent jumbo wings, \$10 Miller Lite pitchers, \$5 Jager bombs; 3032 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-9900.

**THE HANGGE-UPPE**

\$4 rum cocktails, \$4 Corona and Dos Equis bottles; 14 W. Elm St. 312-337-0561.

**INNJOY**

\$1 PBR and Miller Lite drafts, \$3 mixed drinks, half-price burgers, DJs spin indie rock; 2051 W. Division St. 773-394-2066.

**LIAR'S CLUB**

\$3 Bell's Amber drafts and Kilo Kai shots, \$4 Kilo Kai cocktails; 1665 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-665-1110.

**LUMEN**

Industry Tuesdays. Guest DJs spin 10:30 p.m., \$5 Patron and Jameson shots. Cover varies; 839 W. Fulton Market. 312-733-2222.

**MATILDA**

\$1.50 fish tacos, \$3 Pacifico Clara bottles; 3101 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-883-4400.

**MYSTIC CELT**

\$3 Bushmills shots, \$3.50 Blue Moon and Smithwick's pints, \$5 Celt burgers and fries; 3443 N. Southport Ave. 773-529-8550.

**OLE LOUNGE**

Half-price select tapas (5-7 p.m.), \$1 glasses of sangria; 2812 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-388-3500.

**THE OTHER SIDE BAR**

\$4 Jager bombs, \$3 burgers with fries, \$2 PBR cans; 2436 N. Clark St. 773-525-8238.

**POAG MAHONE'S**

Half-price glasses of wine, \$4 Goose Island 312 pints; 333 S. Wells St. 312-566-9100.

**THE RAIL BAR & GRILL**

\$2 Miller Lite, Miller High Life and MGD drafts, \$3.99 all-you-can-eat spaghetti with garlic bread; 4709 N. Damen Ave. 773-878-9400.

**SALUD TEQUILA LOUNGE**

8:30 p.m.: Singles Speed Dating Party. Meet other singles (ages 22-32) for quick dates. Includes appetizers. \$35. Registration required: dateanddash.com; 1471 N. Milwaukee Ave. 800-957-3274.

**THE SPOT**

\$2 off menu items, \$10 drink tasting menu; 4437 N. Broadway. 773-728-8934.

**VILLAINS BAR & GRILL**

Half-price appetizers, \$4 Lagunitas bottles and drafts; 649 S. Clark St. 312-356-9992.

**WILD GOOSE  
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\$5.25 Jager bombs, \$3.75 import pints, \$3.99 all-you-can-eat spaghetti, \$4.50 lunch special (11 a.m.-3 p.m.); 4265 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-7112.

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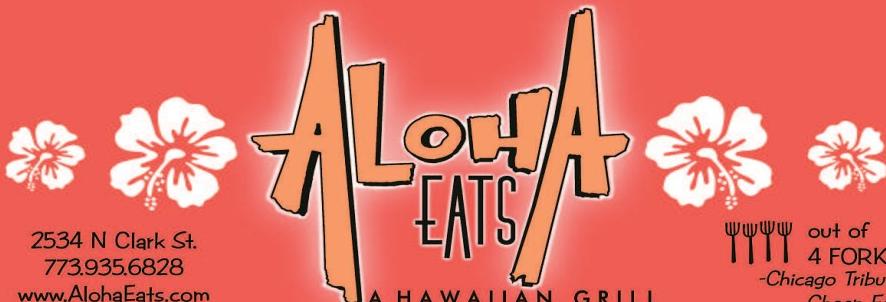
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7 p.m. \$15-\$125. Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont. 312-559-1212.

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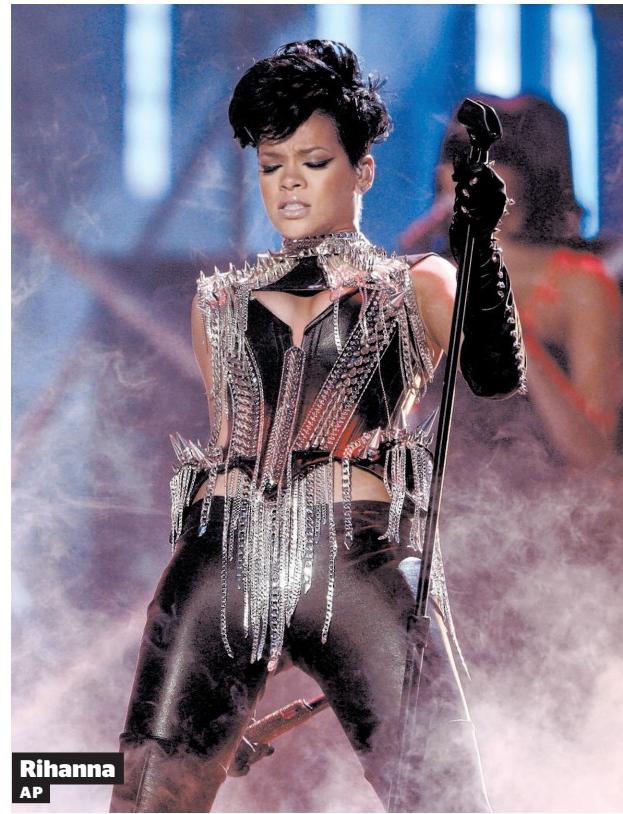
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10 p.m. \$15. Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. housecallent.com

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Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

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8:30 p.m. Free.  
Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.

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8 p.m. Free. Cafe Laguardia, 2111 W. Armitage Ave. 773-867-5996.

**CELINE DION**

8 p.m. \$49.50-\$185.  
United Center, 1901 W. Madison St. 312-559-1212.

**CELTIC SEISIUNS**

7 p.m. Free. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. 847-864-1679.

**DEEP BLUE  
ORGAN TRIO**

9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

**DEVIL IN  
A WOODPILE**

9:30 p.m. Free.  
Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

**ERIN McDougald  
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9 p.m. Free. The Joynt, 650 N. Dearborn St. 312-573-2233.

**FRANK AND RYAN  
FROM SECRET STASH**

8:30 p.m. Free.  
Harlem Avenue Lounge, 3701 Harlem Ave., Berwyn. 708-484-3610.

**THE GREAT KALI,  
PERMACRUSH,  
TRIPP AVENUE**

8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

**GUY KING**

9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

**JEFF HARMS,  
SAM WAGSTER,  
DAN MOHR, RENEE-  
LOUISE CARAFICE,  
MARK TRECKA**

9 p.m. \$7. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

**JOE BARR,  
JOANNA CONNOR**

9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

**JOE POLICASTRO  
TRIO**

9 p.m. \$8. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

**JOHN ZAMOJCIN**

8 p.m. Free. Redhead Piano Bar, 16 W. Ontario St. 312-640-1000.

**JORDAN BASKIN  
TRIO WITH DR. ODIES  
WILLIAMS**

9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

**JOSE VALDES  
LATIN JAZZ TRIO**

6:30 p.m. Free. Green Dolphin Street, 2200 N. Ashland Ave. 773-395-0066.

**KAT' TAYLOR**

12:15 p.m. Free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630.

**KEVIN NABORS  
QUARTET**

5 p.m. \$5. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

### M13

9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

**NELLIE TRAVIS  
BLUES BAND**

9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

**PETE GALANIS  
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MARTY SAMMON**

9:30 p.m. \$7. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

**ROB STONE  
AND KATHERINE  
DAVIS**

9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

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5:45 p.m. \$28.50-\$30. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition

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# Rejects with swagger

**Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

The All-American Rejects have racked up numerous Top 10 singles and sold in excess of 3 million albums, but people don't necessarily talk about them like they do the Jonas Brothers.

But the Oklahoma foursome's next album—"When the World Comes Down," which hits stores Tuesday—could change all that.

Led by shout-along single "Gives You Hell," frontman/bassist Tyson Ritter's pitch-perfect pop-punk songs and smart, slicing lyrics are in full effect throughout "World," positioning the band as a radio-ready outfit unafraid of showing a little fire.

To shake off the dust and showcase the new tunes, the Rejects are in the midst of a club tour. We caught up with Ritter before a show in Boston to discuss the new music.

**Are the Rejects feeling nervous, confident, excited about the new album?**

We're probably feeling a little too confident about this. We're really, really, really proud of what we've done.

**With "World," did you guys have more time to flesh out ideas?**

We've always had that luxury. We took two years to write "Move Along" and we took two years to write "When the World Comes Down." We aren't a band who spits out a record four months after they get off the road just so they can capitalize on some sort of single that's about to fall off the charts.

**You guys made a point to write songs outside of a studio for this album. What inspired that?**

We went to Raven County, Ga.; we went to Vancouver; we went to Haight and Ashbury in San Francisco and we went to New Orleans. We definitely threw ourselves into the extremities of the United States and



The All-American Rejects are (from left) Nick Wheeler, Chris Gaylor, Tyson Ritter and Mike Kennerty. APFILE

North America. We had a good year last year, so I don't think anything great comes without some sense of struggle, so we just took away all of our amenities. We backpacked through the mountains of Georgia and sort of soaked in isolation.

**What do you hope people get out of "World"?**

I hope people get a sense of this band having its own identity. We've come into our own—I believe that's what happened with this record. Every time we've put out a record, we've been compared to our contemporaries, and I think this is the record where people are going to be pointing back at us.

**SNAP JUDGMENT**  
**The All-American Rejects**



**When the World Comes Down**

The band's third album, "When the World Comes Down," isn't striking obscure poses, inventing slang or playing with the audience through distancers like tension and distortion. It's completely clear and even traditional pop music, but those over 16 likely will have no use for it. The All-American Rejects have a few more amperes of snarl than the Jonas Brothers and not nearly as many as Fall Out Boy.

What they've got is good instincts for verse-versus-chorus songwriting; hormones; and a crucial pinch of smugness. "I wanna I wanna I wanna touch you/you wanna touch me too," Tyson Ritter sings with cocky assurance in the album's first track; but a few lines later the words that should be the most biting—"our love's the perfect crime"—disappear in self-satisfaction.

This band has been smug before, as on "Dirty Little Secret," from 2005. But now, either when smugness is the desired point ("Gives You Hell") or not ("Mona Lisa"), it's built into the music, with chord changes you can see coming from 20 paces. And ultimately Ritter's overwrought-deadpan singing presents a single emotion: It's a defensive sort of cool. BEN RATLIFF, NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICES

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- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 1:00; 2:00; 3:40; 4:40; 6:30; 7:30; 9:20; 10:20
- **AMC Select Cadillac Rec** (R) 2:30; 5:15; 8:00; 10:45
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 3:00; 5:30; 8:15; 10:40
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:40; 4:00; 7:10; 9:45
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:30; 4:20; 7:20; 10:10
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 2:20; 5:00; 7:45; 10:30
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- **Milk** (R) 1:30; 2:40; 4:30; 6:20; 7:30; 9:30; 10:30
- **Slumdog Mill** (R) 1:45; 3:00; 4:40; 6:15; 9:20; 10:40
- **Let the Right** (R) 1:50; 4:50; 7:40; 10:25

### CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.  
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) \* 12:20; 1:00; 1:40; 3:20; 4:00; 4:40; 6:20, 7:00; 7:40; 9:30; 10:00; 10:30
- **Nothing Like** (PG-13) \* 1:30; 2:00; 4:30; 5:00; 7:20; 8:00; 10:10, 10:40
- **Delgo** (PG) \* 12:30; 2:50; 5:10; 7:30; 9:50
- **Punisher: War** (R) \* 2:40; 3:40; 6:30; 9:20
- **Cadillac Rec** (R) \* 2:30; 5:20; 8:10; 10:45
- **Transporter 3** (PG-13) 6:05; 8:30; 10:50
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 12:50; 1:10; 3:10; 5:30; 5:30; 6:40; 7:50; 9:10; 10:20
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:15; 4:10; 7:15; 10:15
- **Bolt in 3D** (PG) 1:50; 4:20; 6:50; 9:40
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 2:20; 4:50; 7:10; 9:45
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:20; 3:30

### DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

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- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 6:15; 8:15; 10:15
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 5:00; 7:30; 10:00
- **Bolt** (PG) 5:00; 7:00; 9:00
- **Quantum-Sol.** (PG-13) 5:30; 7:45; 10:00

### FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago  
(773) 582-1839

Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Delgo** (PG) 2:00; 4:15; 6:30; 8:45
- **Earth Stood** (PG-13) 1:00; 2:00; 3:00; 4:00; 5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:00; 10:00
- **AMC Select Nothing Like** (PG-13) 1:30; 2:30; 4:10; 5:10, 6:30; 7:30; 8:50; 9:50
- **Punisher: War** (R) 1:15; 3:45; 6:15; 9:00
- **AMC Select Cadillac Rec** (R) 1:20; 1:30; 4:40; 4:40; 6:10; 7:10; 8:10; 9:40; 10:40
- **Four Chris** (PG-13) 1:05; 3:15; 5:30; 7:45; 9:50
- **Transporter 3** (PG-13) 2:05; 4:40; 7:10; 9:40
- **Bolt** (PG) 1:00; 3:15; 5:30; 7:50; 10:00
- **Twilight** (PG-13) 1:10; 4:00; 6:45; 9:30
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 1:20; 3:30; 5:40; 7:50; 9:55

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- **Antonio Gaudi** (NR) 6:15; 7:45
- **Lawrnce-Arabia** (PG) 6:00

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- **Transporter 3** (PG-13) 2:15; 4:20; 6:30; 8:40
- **Madagascar 2** (PG) 2:05; 4:10; 6:15; 8:20
- **Changeling** (R) 2:10; 5:30; 8:10
- **Role Models** (R) 2:10; 4:15; 6:20; 8:30

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- **Were-World** (NR) 5:15; 7:30; 9:45
- **Christmas Tale** (NR) 5:30; 8:30

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Show times change daily

#### AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Let Them Chirp** (NR) 1:20; 3:30; 5:50; 8:10
- **Rab Ne Bana** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Dark Streets** (R) 1:15; 3:20; 5:30; 7:50
- **Striped Pajamas** (PG-13) 1:30; 3:40
- **AMC Select Rachel Getting** (R) 1:40; 4:20; 7:00

### RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street  
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Show times change daily

#### AMC Select Frost/Nixon

(R) 1:15; 2:15; 3:15; 5:15; 6:15; 6:30; 7:30; 8:30; 9:45; 10:45

#### AMC Select Doubt

(PG-13) 1:30; 2:30; 4:20; 5:20; 7:15; 8:15; 10:10

#### AMC Select Slumdog Mill

(R) 1:20; 2:40; 4:20; 7:20; 8:20; 10:20

#### AMC Select Earth Stood

(PG-13) 1:00; 2:00; 3:00; 4:00; 5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:00; 10:00

#### AMC Select Milk

(R) 1:40; 2:50; 4:40; 7:45; 8:45; 10:40

#### AMC Select Nothing Like

(PG-13) 2:15; 5:00; 7:40; 10:20

#### Punisher: War

(R) 2:10; 7:50

#### AMC Select Cadillac Rec

(R) 1:40; 4:40; 7:40; 10:40

#### Four Chris

(PG-13) 2:10; 4:45; 5:45; 7:25; 10:00

#### Australia

(PG) 3:20; 7:00; 10:25

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 2:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:10

#### Bolt

(PG) 2:00; 4:45; 7:10; 9:45

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:15; 4:05; 7:10; 10:10

#### Quantum-Sol.

(PG-13) 1:35; 4:05; 6:00; 9:50

#### Changeling

(R) 1:15; 2:00; 4:50; 7:40; 10:15

#### Vicky Cristina

(PG-13) 1:10; 1:45; 3:40; 7:30; 10:15

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Earth Stood

(PG-13) 1:20; 1:40; 2:00; 3:00; 4:00; 5:00; 6:00; 7:00; 8:00; 9:00; 10:00

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:10; 6:45; 9:10

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG) 2:10; 4:50; 7:10; 9:30

#### Role Models

(R) 2:40; 5:20; 8:00; 10:35

#### Transporter 3

(PG-13) 1:10; 4:20; 7:00; 10:20

#### Twilight

(PG-13) 1:30; 4:15; 7:40; 10:30

#### Bolt

(PG) 1:00; 3:40; 6:30; 8:30

#### Madagascar 2

(PG)

# pop

## New York Times News Service

No one paid Patrick Stump much mind during an evening shopping excursion at Academy Records in New York's East Village early last month. Flipping through racks of albums, he worked his way through blues, jazz, world and rock like any other record nerd.

Stump, 24, prefers it this way. That he is the lead singer of the multiplatinum rock band Fall Out Boy has done little to convince him that attention is something to warm to. Instead Stump has quite willingly ceded the spotlight, if it was ever on him, to the band's bass player, Pete Wentz, 29, the attention vacuum known for marrying Ashlee Simpson-Wentz, hosting his own show on MTV and oversharing on the Internet, including photos of his nether regions that surfaced in 2006.

On Tuesday Fall Out Boy, which also includes guitarist Joe Trohman and drummer Andy Hurley, will release "Folie a Deux," its fifth album. The album comes at a time when Stump is also in increasing demand as a producer for other artists. Stump is perhaps the least visible lead singer of any popular band, preferring to let Wentz grab most of the attention.

"I never really felt like the frontman type," Stump said later that evening at the Midtown hotel where, the night before, he had celebrated Barack Obama's victory with a bottle of champagne, alone. "I got really lucky in Pete. He's such a personality that I don't have to be a character, really. It's selfish that I let him get thrust into that, but it was awesome for me."

Stump, from Glenview, has fronted Fall Out Boy since its inception in 2001 in the Chicago-area punk scene, and he has been the primary architect of the group's sound, which in short order has evolved from spiky emo to radio-friendly pop-punk.

Wentz, from Wilmette, who writes the words, is responsible for the group's hyper-literate emotional heft, but it is Stump who takes it from there, chiseling Wentz's lyrics into traditional song structures, then writing the melodies, hooks and arrangements for the other band members to play. And though it's Wentz's feelings coming out of his mouth, it's Stump who is the voice of the band.

Working on Fall Out Boy's latest album, "Folie a Deux," put some strain on the band.

Normally bassist Pete Wentz writes the lyrics while lead singer Patrick Stump writes the music, but the two have never composed together.

"We fought more on this record than on any record since 'Take This to Your Grave,'" Wentz said, referring to the band's 2003 indie breakthrough. "I don't care how the word sounds. I care how the word feels."

# the silent singer

**Pete Wentz gets all the attention, and Fall Out Boy frontman Patrick Stump is just fine with that**

"I don't think Pete thinks of himself as a bass player," Stump said. "I think he thinks of himself as a singer. He sings through me."

When Stump auditioned for Fall Out Boy, it was to be the drummer. "I sing because Pete wanted me to," he said. "I sing because Pete saw in me a singer."

In recent years Stump has begun working outside Fall Out Boy, producing both in the hip-hop sense, making beats for Lupe Fiasco and Tyga, and in the rock sense, helping shape songs by Gym Class Heroes, Cobra Starship and the Hush Sound.

"Patrick's strongest skill as a producer is having a great sense of melody, where the focus on certain lyrics should be," said Greta Salpeter of the Hush Sound. "He doesn't really engineer anything. It doesn't matter if you know how to set up a microphone. The only thing that matters to him is that you have a great song."

No one seems more pleased with, or relieved by, Stump's evolution than Wentz.

"Patrick, I think, is a musical genius. He has a natural grasp of music theory," Wentz said. "But who I have been has infringed upon that. I feel as though I've made it harder for people to understand that."

When speaking of his role in the band, Wentz is given to the grand metaphor. His courting of attention, or infamy, was, he said, "the booster rocket on the shuttle—it needs to

drop off so the rocket goes where it can go."

Wentz insists that Stump has been the band's center of gravity all along: "I think people will remember the immense ideas that Patrick had. He's definitely a lottery ticket."

If still a reluctant one. A couple of weeks after shopping at Academy Records, Stump was in New York again, drafted into star duty for the finale of the MTV show "TRL," which fell a few days before Simpson-Wentz gave birth. Diddy and Taylor Swift were there. Snoop Dogg and Kid Rock, too. And Stump, shrugging off his invisibility cloak, did what he could to savor the moment.

"He was telling me about it," said Salpeter, who spoke with him shortly thereafter, "and he said, 'Oh, man, I had to go be the face and do the celebrity thing. It was terrible!'"

**txtable**

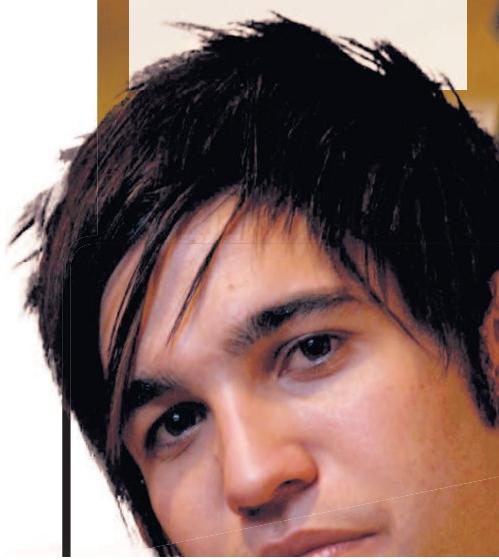
**Yay or nay?**

Are you excited for the new Fall Out Boy album? Text "fob" and the number of your answer to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

**(1) Heck yeah! I'm buying it as soon as it's available on iTunes. OR (2) Heck no! I'm sick of Fall Out Boy.**

I never really felt like the frontman type. I got really lucky in Pete. He's such a personality that I don't have to be a character, really."

**PATRICK STUMP**  
the lead singer of Fall Out Boy



**Boy  
will be  
boys**

Guitarist Joe Trohman came to resent the exclusivity of the creative dynamic between Wentz and Stump.

"Sometimes I'll be somewhat discontent, and I'll want more of a part of this or that," said Trohman, who is from Winnetka. "But on this record I asserted myself more, and I think it was pretty welcome."

Stump said he and Wentz had "figured out our thing, but we hadn't figured out everyone else's thing. I think that offended Joe quite a bit." **NYT**



## What's the Wentz been up to?

Pete Wentz is the most visible and vocal Fall Out Boy member. Here's where you can see him.

» His MTV show, "FNMTV Presents..."

» In tabloid photos with wife Ashlee Simpson-Wentz.

- » He, Simpson-Wentz and their dogs Hemingway and Rigby appear in the Dec. 28 episode of National Geographic channel's "The Dog Whisperer."
- » He's rumored to be doing a cameo on a January episode of

the CW's "Privileged."

» Wentz is staging his first art show in December, of works done with Travis McCoy, at Gallery 1988 in L.A.

REDEYE, NYT



## Joe's take

### The Miami Herald

Fall Out Boy guitarist Joe Trohman (above) took some time off from a sound check in Burbank, Calif., to talk about his bandmates and their new album and tour, which kicked off last week.

### What can fans expect from your tour show, a lot of new songs or older stuff?

We play some songs from a mix of our albums and aren't super heavy on the new material. ... We will definitely play stuff from "Infinity" and "Cork" and songs like "I Don't Care" and "America's Sweetheart." We want to hear the fans sing along to the music, it's all about making the fans happy. They're the ones that enable us to do what we're doing in our career. And we're thankful.

### What do you think makes Fall Out Boy stick together as a band amid all the stress of touring?

I don't think people realize that there was a time we toured for, like, seven years straight. That can get stressful. But, we're friends. We do fight, but we're friends. We like each other, and that's what works. We do get along and don't fight over too much; we make sure there aren't many petty things to fight over anytime. This industry can make you insecure, and the more insecure they are the uglier people act. You have to learn to deal with it the best way possible.

### Are you guys looking forward to the new album dropping, and do you have a ritual as a band that you do every time a new album is released?

The album already leaked and we were actually excited that it leaked. You know why? Because you get to listen to what songs fans like, who to me are the real critics, and you get to experience it before the record comes out. As for rituals, we always play a record release show and buy the album. This time, we are playing a record release show at the Nokia Theater in New York City and then each and every one of us has to pick up a copy of the CD the day it comes out. We always do.

### SNAP JUDGMENT

#### Fall Out Boy

"*Folie a Deux*"

**The buzz:** Bassist/lyricist Pete Wentz's non-musical exploits/marriage to Ashlee Simpson-Wentz/etc. sometimes snag the bulk of the band's press, but you'd be foolish to ignore the Chicago outfit's stellar template of catchy, radio-ready songs, wrapped around awesome hooks and delivered by singer Patrick Stump. "*Folie a Deux*," which translates to "a madness shared by two," is the band's fourth full-length CD, and features Lil Wayne and singers including Elvis Costello and Gym Class Heroes' Travis McCoy.

**The verdict:** Talk about over-the-top, as tunes are spiked with symphonic codas, horn accents, a little Justin Timberlake-esque falsetto and all the mega-production money can buy. Here's the thing: The songs also are glossy, groovy and great, and the album's ambition pays off far more frequently than it fails. Tracks like "w.a.m.s." indulge in too many random impulses, but FOB has perfected the formula for modern pop, with so many ready-to-sing-along choruses that you're sure to have a blurred medley rocking your brain on repeat. Coldplay's probably playing larger venues, but the tunes on "*Folie*" are better, smarter ways to get gigantic crowds singing and swaying.

MATT PAIS, METROMIX



# Win the war against winter weight gain

## MCT

In a season that can be tough on waistlines, here are tips—beyond the basics of eating right and exercising—that can help prevent weight gain:

» Get outside. The sun increases levels of serotonin, a hormone that boosts mood and can help lower cravings for unhealthy foods. Even if it's a cold day, try for at least a brisk walk around the block.

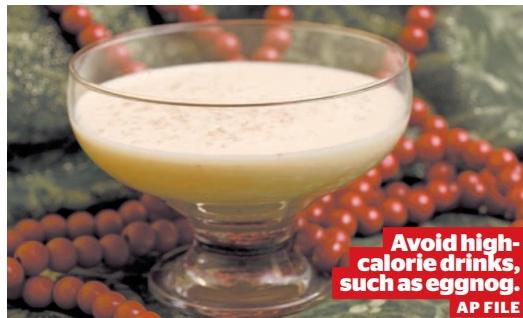
» Wear clothes that fit. Bulky sweaters and elastic waistbands likely won't be as motivating for healthful eating as fitted shirts and buttoned pants. You also may not notice if you're picking up a few extra pounds.

» Vary your workout. Try something different, such as skiing or ice skating, hit the pool at the gym or buy a new exercise video and free weights for your home.

» Snack before parties. Fill up on healthy fruits and vegetables before holiday celebrations that offer lots of fattening treats. At parties, focus on the chance to catch up with family and friends rather than the buffet table.

» Don't deny yourself. Enjoy reasonable portions of your favorite holiday goodies to satisfy cravings and reduce the chance of binges.

» Watch the alcohol. Spiked eggnog, brandy and



Avoid high-calorie drinks, such as eggnog.  
AP FILE

other popular winter drinks are high in calories and also slow your metabolism. If you must imbibe, especially beyond one glass, have some water before and after each drink to pace yourself.

» Experiment with new produce. Healthy winter crops include squash, oranges and artichokes. Also don't forget that frozen and canned fruits and vegetables are very nutritious.

» Do something creative. Especially if you can't get outside, boost your mood with activities such as painting, journaling or cooking.

» Stay connected. Talk often with family and friends, even if it's by phone. If having a workout buddy helps keep you active, find one.



Fill up on artichokes, or other seasonal produce.  
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## show patrol

CURT WAGNER  
cwwagner@tribune.com



The boys and their moms on "Momma's Boys" on NBC.

# Caution: Too much 'Momma' drama

Everything Ryan Seacrest does seems to turn to gold. Maybe not this time.

At 9 p.m. Tuesday, the "American Idol" host and NBC sink to a new low with the premiere of "Momma's Boys," a reality dating show from Seacrest and producing partner Andrew Glassman. "Boys" has 32 women vying for three bachelors. The twist: The three guys' moms move into a Santa Barbara mansion with the 32 women to help their sons choose the right gals.

"I can relate to this concept because I'm pretty close to my mother," Seacrest told journalists last week during a phone interview. "I don't take her out on dates with me ... but she is part of the decision-making process, whether it's personal or professional."

But the show's controversy doesn't just stem from the moms meddling in matters of the heart.

One mom, Khalood Bojanowski of Washington Township, Mich., "was an equal-opportunity offender," Glassman said. "She really is reality TV's answer to Archie Bunker."

Bojanowski—"Mrs. B," as she's called on the show—provides shocks from the start when she describes the perfect gal for her 21-year-old son, JoJo (yes, JoJo).

"I cannot have a black one," she says in a taped segment played for the 32 women. "I can't have an Asian one; I can't have a fat-butt girl. ... No Jewish girl! No way, no way! I cannot stand them! I'm sorry, but I can't handle them. It has to be a white girl."

I am not making this up. The women react accordingly when they meet Mrs. B. There's a whole lot of yelling, crying and throwing of cocktail glasses. It's something you'd expect to see on trashy cable shows.

"We wanted to incorporate more cable-television sensibilities," Seacrest said. "Obviously, it's a big-budget network show, but we wanted some of that craziness and the loudness that you would generally see on a cable show."

It would be completely despicable if not for the lessons that Mrs. B will no doubt learn. Seacrest insists lessons are doled out—if you can stand watching until it happens.

"Her son and these girls pummel her," he said. "I mean they put her in her place over and over and over again. ... You almost root for it."

Lessons or not, I won't be rooting for this show.



For more from this interview, go to [redeyechicago.com/showpatrol](http://redeyechicago.com/showpatrol).

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**Eli Stone**  
9 p.m. ABC

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**Leverage**  
9 p.m. TNT

The crew investigates the torching of a stable of racehorses.

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## **txttable**

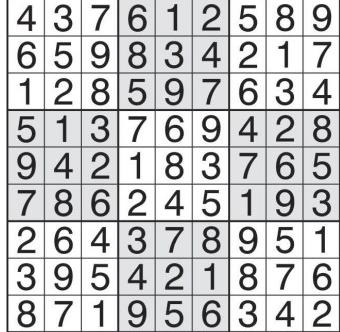


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# **MONDAY'S SOLUTIONS**



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

A partially filled 9x9 Sudoku grid. The visible numbers are:

3				9	2			1
	6	5				8		
4				3				
9	4				1			
	2					3		
		3			2		7	
				5				6
6					9	5		
1			4	7				8

## **ACROSS**

- 1 Inexpensive and of poor quality
  - 7 Witnessed
  - 10 Attention getter
  - 14 Brouhaha
  - 15 Opposite of WSW
  - 16 Appraise
  - 17 Quantity
  - 18 Disney employee
  - 20 Blanc, for one
  - 21 Specter
  - 23 Be nosy
  - 24 Farm towers
  - 25 Transmits
  - 26 U-boat detector
  - 27 Drunk-tank letters
  - 28 Error's partner
  - 31 Bar perch
  - 33 Ugandan dictator  
Amin
  - 36 Penn or Tell
  - 38 Go in again
  - 40 " to a Nightingale"
  - 41 Tight embrace
  - 43 Carries
  - 44 Feel unwell
  - 45 State of utter  
confusion
  - 47 Grownup
  - 50 Mark
  - 51 Wee dram
  - 54 Net
  - 56 Conceal
  - 57 Outer chamber
  - 58 Like better
  - 60 Crystal gazer
  - 61 Cut off, as a branch
  - 62 Type of sauce
  - 63 Towel word
  - 64 Printers' measures
  - 65 In an agile manner

**DOWN**

- 1 Title holder, casually
  - 2 Wit
  - 3 Hard, dark wood
  - 4 Border on
  - 5 Play on words
  - 6 Get

- A crossword puzzle grid consisting of a 10x10 grid of squares. Some squares are blacked out, while others are white. Numbered entries are placed in the white squares, indicating the length of the word and its position. The entries are as follows:
  - 1: 2 squares (top-left)
  - 2: 3 squares (top-left)
  - 3: 4 squares (top-left)
  - 4: 5 squares (top-left)
  - 5: 6 squares (top-left)
  - 6: 7 squares (top-left)
  - 7: 8 squares (top-left)
  - 8: 9 squares (top-left)
  - 9: 10 squares (top-left)
  - 10: 11 squares (top-left)
  - 11: 12 squares (top-left)
  - 12: 13 squares (top-left)
  - 14: 14 squares (top-left)
  - 15: 15 squares (top-left)
  - 16: 16 squares (top-left)
  - 17: 17 squares (top-left)
  - 18: 18 squares (top-left)
  - 19: 19 squares (top-left)
  - 20: 20 squares (top-left)
  - 21: 21 squares (top-left)
  - 22: 22 squares (top-left)
  - 23: 23 squares (top-left)
  - 24: 24 squares (top-left)
  - 25: 25 squares (top-left)
  - 26: 26 squares (middle-left)
  - 27: 27 squares (middle-left)
  - 28: 28 squares (bottom-left)
  - 29: 29 squares (bottom-left)
  - 30: 30 squares (bottom-left)
  - 31: 31 squares (bottom-left)
  - 32: 32 squares (bottom-left)
  - 33: 33 squares (bottom-left)
  - 34: 34 squares (bottom-left)
  - 35: 35 squares (bottom-left)
  - 36: 36 squares (bottom-left)
  - 37: 37 squares (bottom-left)
  - 38: 38 squares (bottom-left)
  - 39: 39 squares (bottom-left)
  - 40: 40 squares (bottom-left)
  - 41: 41 squares (bottom-left)
  - 42: 42 squares (bottom-left)
  - 43: 43 squares (bottom-left)
  - 44: 44 squares (bottom-left)
  - 45: 45 squares (bottom-left)
  - 46: 46 squares (bottom-left)
  - 47: 47 squares (bottom-left)
  - 48: 48 squares (bottom-left)
  - 49: 49 squares (bottom-left)
  - 50: 50 squares (bottom-left)
  - 51: 51 squares (bottom-left)
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  - 55: 55 squares (bottom-left)
  - 56: 56 squares (bottom-left)
  - 57: 57 squares (bottom-left)
  - 58: 58 squares (bottom-left)
  - 59: 59 squares (bottom-left)
  - 60: 60 squares (bottom-left)
  - 61: 61 squares (bottom-left)
  - 62: 62 squares (bottom-left)
  - 63: 63 squares (bottom-left)
  - 64: 64 squares (bottom-left)
  - 65: 65 squares (bottom-left)

- |    |                       |    |                                 |    |                     |
|----|-----------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 7  | Coastal harbor        | 28 | Pair count                      | 44 | Changes             |
| 8  | Karenina and Christie | 29 | Disember                        | 46 | Proficient ones     |
| 9  | Small dam             | 30 | Land in the Seine               | 47 | Embarrass           |
| 10 | Babbles               | 32 | Oliver Twist or<br>Harry Potter | 48 | Largesse recipient  |
| 11 | Glossy fabric         | 33 | Addams Family<br>cousin         | 49 | Absolute            |
| 12 | Endured               | 34 | Sandra or Ruby                  | 50 | State of melancholy |
| 13 | Sea birds             | 35 | Apr. collector                  | 51 | Peachy keen!        |
| 19 | Christmas kiss plant  | 37 | Everyone                        | 52 | Just about perfect  |
| 22 | Blood part            | 39 | Negatives                       | 53 | Gardner's Mason     |
| 24 | London lawyer         | 42 | Economizes                      | 55 | Double agent        |
| 26 | Erie Canal mule       |    |                                 | 56 | Mister in Hamburg   |
| 27 | Unknown John          |    |                                 | 59 | Musiq genre         |



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BY  
JIM  
WALSH



# Old format—out

**The next season of ‘American Idol’ comes with some major changes**

Are you ready to get your “American Idol” on? And, if so, are you ready to get it on in a different way?

With the show gearing up for a January return to TV, the rumor mill was abuzz this week that Season 8 will be different. Will there be fewer bizarre auditions? Will we see more contestants in the final episodes? And what’s this we’re hearing about a “wild card” round?

On Monday, Fox responded: yes, yes and we’ll tell you.

The contest will open with a two-night, four-hour premiere Jan. 13-14 from 7 to 9 p.m., the network said Monday.

“American Idol” will cut the number of weeks featuring nationwide tryouts from four weeks to three and will bring more contestants to Hollywood to compete—36 people versus the two dozen of past seasons, Fox says. Oh, and there will be “wild card” finalists picked by the show’s judges and less airtime for memorably bad auditions.

With all this talk of change in the air, RedEye has offered up a few suggestions of our own for switch-ups in the long-running reality competition.

AP CONTRIBUTED.

#### SIMON

What was up with the mean machine last season? It seemed like Simon prefaced everything he said with, “I’m sorry, but ...” What we need is more catty comments from the UK’s most lovable meanie. Anything else would just be, well, so cabaret—so “lounge singer.”

#### RANDY

Dawg, we’re feeling you, but you gotta come up with some new catchphrases, dude. Gotta come up with some new catchphrases.

#### PAULA

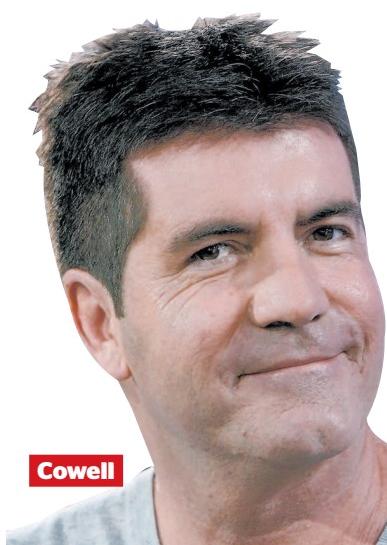
We’re going to need 100 percent more nonsensical behavior whenever the cameras are rolling. That time you did the loopy news interview last year was a perfect example of this kind of thing. It keeps the show interesting.

#### KARA

Grammy-nominated songwriter Kara DioGuardi, who is also the new girl, this season joins the three-judge panel that made “Idol” what it is today. This is a huge change already, so we can only offer some advice: Don’t ever vote for a tie. Who’d break it?

#### AUDITIONS

We need at least a few kooky contestants. If producers decide to cut back on the oddballs, there needs to be some assurance that we’ll get at least one person every so often who’s wearing a costume.



Cowell



Jackson



Abdul



DioGuardi

#### Ex ‘Idol’ producer responds to Paula Abdul allegations

Former “American Idol” producer Nigel Lythgoe has fired back at criticism by Paula Abdul that the show put her in peril

by allowing an alleged stalker to audition.

Lythgoe says in an interview posted on People magazine’s Web site: “You do not take somebody in that room that you believe is a danger to herself or a danger to

Paula. That would not enter our heads.”

Abdul, one of the “American Idol” judges, claimed during an interview with Barbara Walters on her Sirius XM radio show that producers knew Paula Good-

speed had stalked her, and allowed her to audition anyway.

Goodspeed was found dead of an apparent suicide in a car near Abdul’s L.A. home last month.



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**Johansson****ScarJo sets it straight**

ScarJo says she'd love to do a follow-up to "Anywhere I Lay My Head," she told MTV. Johansson added she'd like to do some original material, perhaps inspired by married life, MTV reported. That's one way to get the relationship scoop from the extremely private actress; her rep slammed Cosmopolitan's UK edition for its January cover story. Not only were the marriage-related quotes, which ran in RedEye, "fabricated," but Johansson also never discussed her personal life with the mag, her rep said in a statement obtained by E! News.

**Black**

AP

**'Office' work**

After catching the Super Bowl, stay tuned for Jack Black and his guest-star turn on "The Office," according to the AP. The episode, titled "Stress Relief," follows the drones as they try to watch a bootleg movie. NBC didn't say what role he'd play so we can only guess—a kung fu panda? Obnoxious rocker? We'll just have to wait until Feb. 1.

**Diaz****Off Broadway**

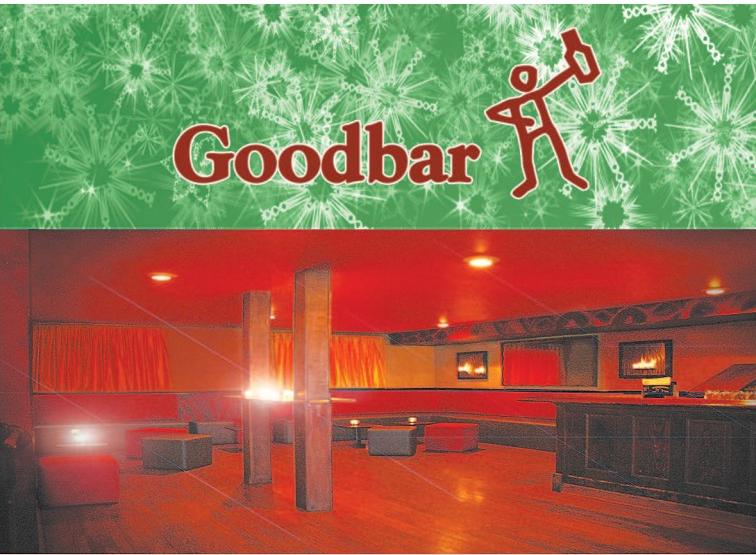
Cameron Diaz thinks the musical adaptation of "Shrek" is great; just don't expect her on stage, AP reports. "No. Absolutely not. What they do up there ... is, to me, impossible," she said of bringing her Princess Fiona character to the Broadway musical, which opened Sunday. If she sings like she does in "My Best Friend's Wedding," that's probably a good thing.

**Star power**

Some top indie rockers are banding together for a good cause, [billboard.com](#) reported. "Dark Was the Night," which drops Feb. 17, is a double-disc album that features the talents of the Arcade Fire and My Morning Jacket. Proceeds will benefit the Red Hot organization's work with AIDS. We're partial to anything named Red Hot.

**Celebrity twin**

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to [dihernandez@tribune.com](mailto:dihernandez@tribune.com). For Tuesday, we have Priscilla Negron. Think she's a ringer for Demi Lovato? Text "demi" and the number of your opinion to 47383. You'll get the poll results instantly.

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## THE VELVET ROPE

# red hot



Tom Cruise arm-wrestles with "Today" host Matt Lauer. The two were friendly Monday, a far cry from their exchange three years ago. AP

## Over the top

Tom Cruise was back on the "Today" show Monday for the first time since he and host Matt Lauer infamously sparred over Scientology three years ago.

Cruise, who called Lauer "glib," admit-

ted that upon reviewing the tape of their last meeting, "I thought I came across as arrogant."

"It's one of those things you go, 'OK, I could have handled that a lot better,' "

Cruise said. "I didn't communicate it the way that I wanted to communicate it. And also, that's not who I am."

Lauer said despite tabloid reports, there was never any animosity between them.

### PETA'S PETS Hot listed

Carrie Underwood is in; Jessica Simpson is definitely out, according to PETA.

The animal advocacy group included vegetarian Underwood and carnivore Simpson in its catty trend list for 2008.

"True trendsetters know that kindness to animals—unlike mood rings and mullets—never goes out of style," PETA President Ingrid Newkirk said in a release.

### ALSO IN/OUT

- » A mutt in the White House/ A purebred in any house
- » Hummus/Hummers
- » Wii fishing/Fly-fishing



Swift

### Go Taylor, it's your birthday

Taylor Swift's recipe for a perfect all-American birthday blowout? Sushi, ping-pong and s'mores.

The country-crossover star revealed to [people.com](#) the details of her 19th birthday party at her home in Hendersonville, Tenn.

For dinner, Swift and her friends and family gorged on sushi and two ice cream cakes. Afterward, they had a ping-pong tournament and roasted s'mores (a personal fave of Swift) in a fire pit. How wholesome!

### Big in '08: TV

It's doubtful the cast of "The Office" celebrated quite like they did during Moroccan Christmas, or that stars from "Lost"

exchanged hugs quite like they did when they finally got off the island, but both TV powerhouses have cause for celebration.

They joined "Mad Men," "Breaking Bad," "The Shield" and "John Adams," among others, on the American Film Institute's list of the top 10 TV shows of 2008, AP reports.

For its small-screen picks AFI, known best for its film lists, relied on a 13-member panel of TV experts. Rest assured, "Knight Rider" did not make the list.



## \$76M-\$92M

The amount Madonna has agreed to give ex-husband Guy Ritchie as part of their divorce settlement, Madonna's rep told The Associated Press. The couple reportedly was worth some \$525 million, the vast majority of which belonged to Madonna. Ritchie had an estimated \$35 million fortune.



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